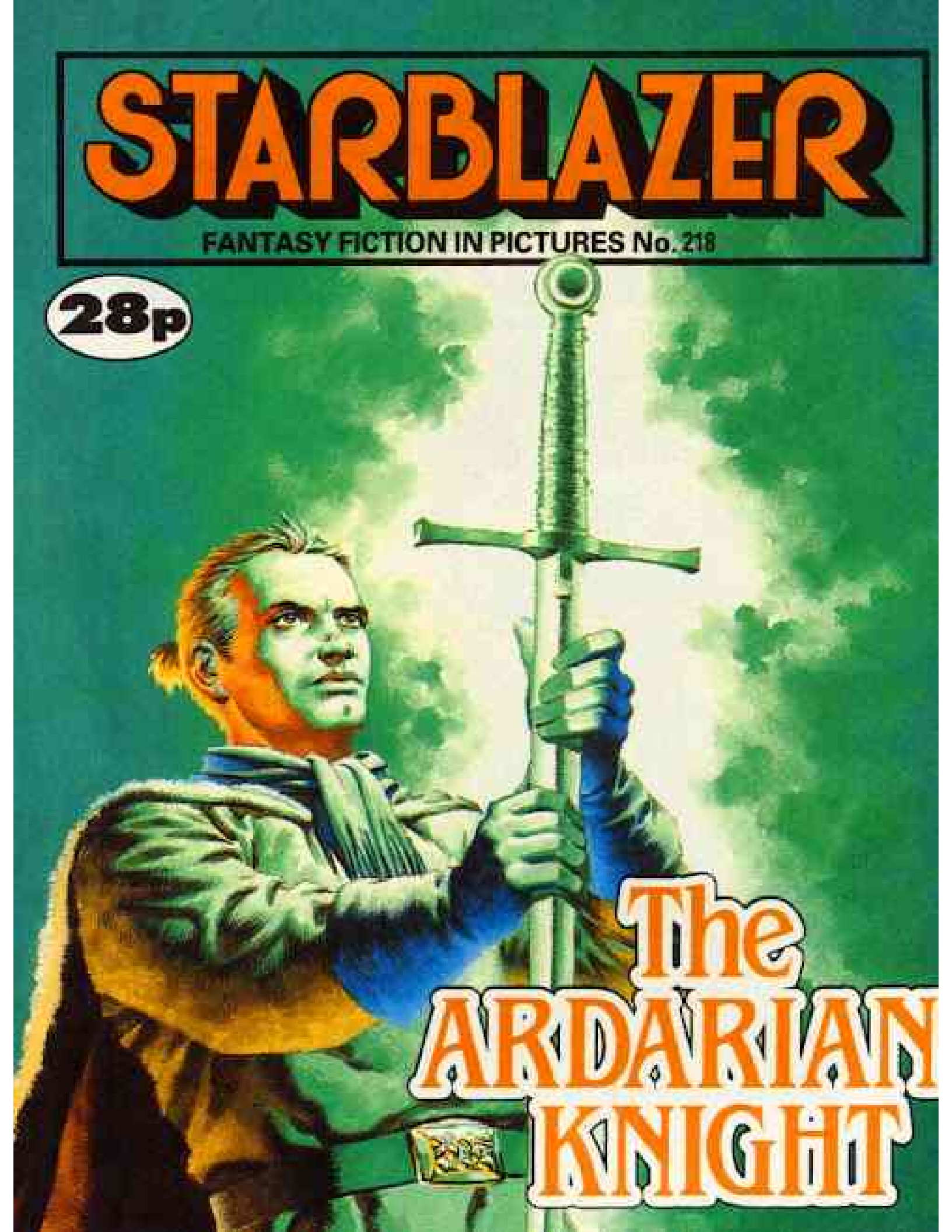


STARBLAZER

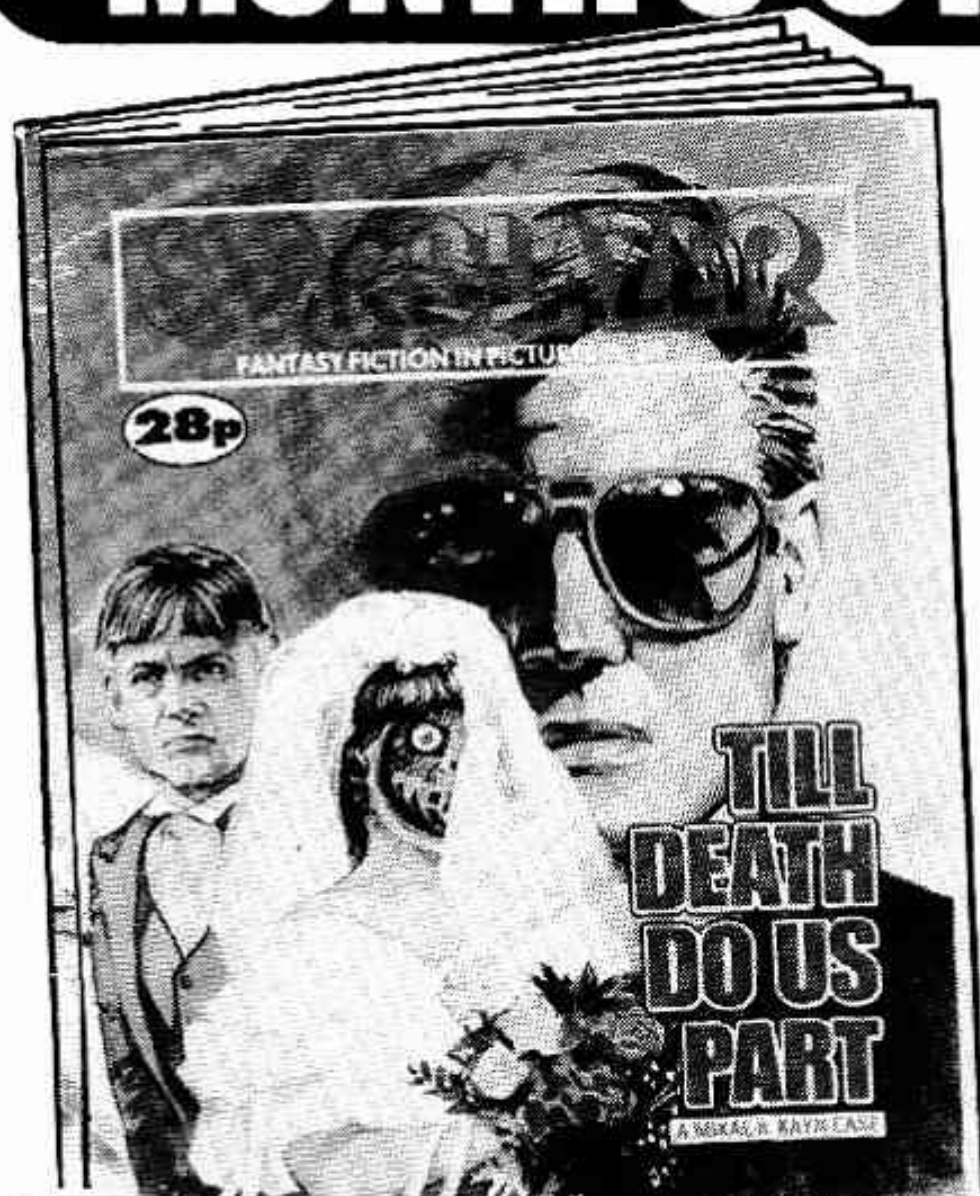
FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES No. 218

28p

A full-page illustration of a knight with blonde hair, wearing a blue tunic and a brown cloak with a fur collar. He is holding a sword with both hands, looking upwards with a determined expression. The background is a dramatic sky with white and grey clouds. The title 'The ARDARIAN KNIGHT' is written in large, stylized letters at the bottom right.

The
ARDARIAN
KNIGHT

DON'T FORGET THIS MONTH'S OTHER



NOW ON SALE

Have you missed a copy of Starblazer? Well, we can prevent it happening again — with an annual subscription. All you have to do is write for details to
**STARBLAZER SUBSCRIPTIONS, D. C. THOMSON & CO.,
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enclosing an SAE for your reply.

The ARDARIAN KNIGHT



IN ANOTHER TIME, ON ANOTHER EARTH,
THE DAY'S BACK-BREAKING TOIL IN THE
FIELDS WAS OVER. YOUNG EVRIK
HEADED HAPPILY FOR HOME... AND
FOOD, PLUS HIS GRANDFATHER'S TALES
OF DAYS GONE BY.

4
AFTER A FRUGAL MEAL EVRIK'S GRANDFATHER
RELATED STORIES OF THE LEGENDARY ARDARIAN
KNIGHTS TO AN ENTRANCED BOY.

... AND THE LEGEND SAYS THAT AS
LONG AS THERE IS ONE ARDARIAN
KNIGHT, THE FORCES OF EVIL WILL
BE HELD IN CHECK. BUT IF THE
KNIGHTS ARE NO MORE, EVIL,
BLACK, VIOLENT EVIL SHALL
RAVAGE OUR LAND.

FATHER! STOP FILLING THE BOY'S
MIND WITH THESE SILLY TALES!
EVRIK ... TO BED! YOU HAVE
HEAVY CHORES TOMORROW!

BUT EVRIK THOUGHT ABOUT THE ARDARIAN KNIGHTS EVERY
WAKING MOMENT — EVEN AS HE DID HIS CHORES.

WHERE DO THE KNIGHTS COME
FROM? AND HOW DO THEY LEARN
THEIR WARRIOR SKILLS?

TIRED EYES WATCHED, AND DULL EARS HEARD —

A BOY ... YOU WILL DO!
HAH ... ON, HORSE!



WHO ... WHAT ... ?
A KNIGHT!

HOLD, LAD. LET
ME DISMOUNT!



**BUT THE STRANGER WAS TOO BADLY
INJURED TO DISMOUNT. HE SLUMPED
TO THE GROUND.**

TAKE CARE ...



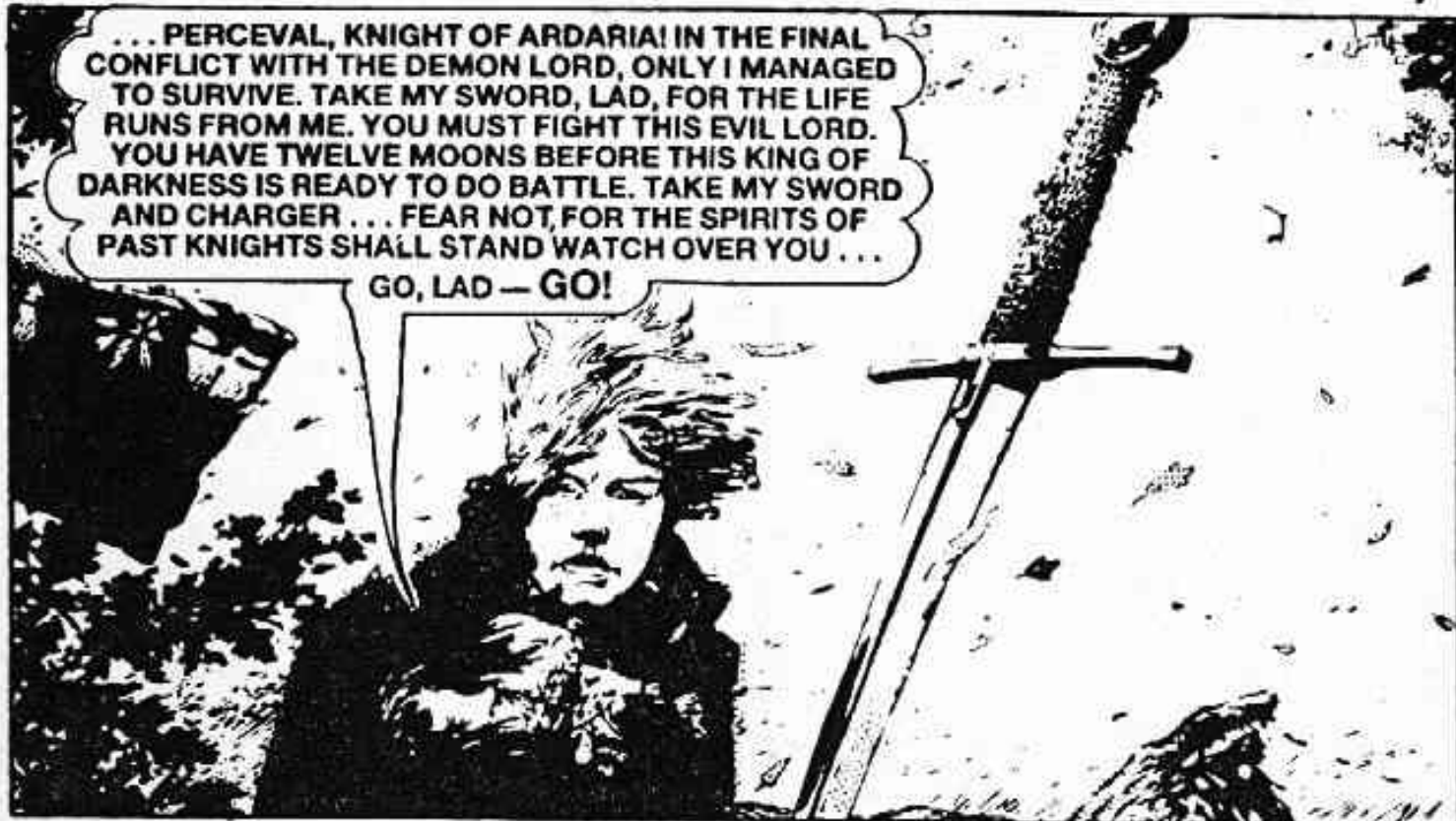
**LET ME GET
YOU WATER.**



**NO TIME — LISTEN!
I AM PERCEVAL ...**

... PERCEVAL, KNIGHT OF ARDARIA! IN THE FINAL CONFLICT WITH THE DEMON LORD, ONLY I MANAGED TO SURVIVE. TAKE MY SWORD, LAD, FOR THE LIFE RUNS FROM ME. YOU MUST FIGHT THIS EVIL LORD. YOU HAVE TWELVE MOONS BEFORE THIS KING OF DARKNESS IS READY TO DO BATTLE. TAKE MY SWORD AND CHARGER ... FEAR NOT, FOR THE SPIRITS OF PAST KNIGHTS SHALL STAND WATCH OVER YOU ...

GO, LAD — GO!



THE KNIGHT'S BODY GLOWED AND FADED AWAY.

AIEEEEE!
WHAT IS THIS?



I KNOW NOT WHAT HAPPENS! I MUST RETURN TO TELL FATHER OF THIS. COME, HORSE!



BUT EVRIK'S FATHER RAGED AT HIM.



CEASE THIS NONSENSE!
GIVE ME THAT SWORD.
TAKE THE HORSE TO THE
STABLE . . . IT SHALL BE
USED ON THE LAND.

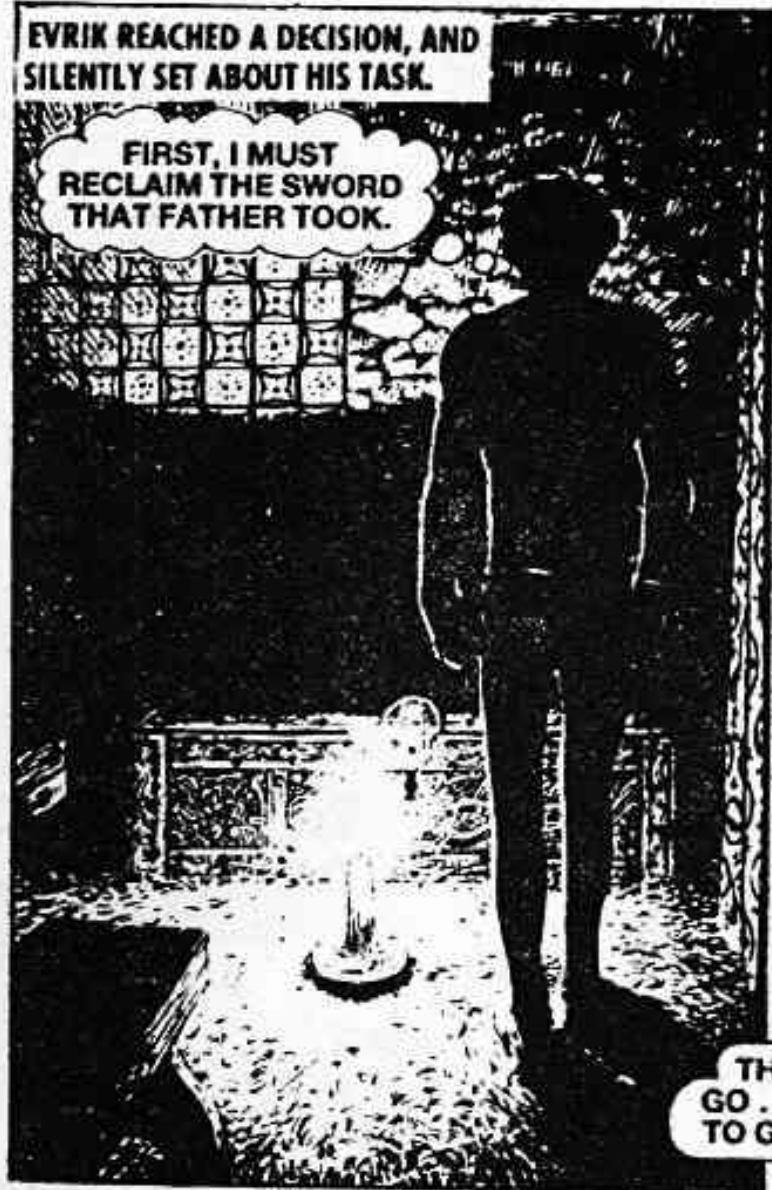
THAT NIGHT, EVRIK WATCHED
THE FULL MOON RISE.



ANOTHER TWELVE OF THOSE AND OUR LAND
SHALL BE BLIGHTED BY EVIL. I CANNOT STAND
BY AND LET IT HAPPEN. PERHAPS
GRANDFATHER'S STORIES ARE TRUE AFTER ALL
— ABOUT KNIGHTS AND EVIL.

EVRIK REACHED A DECISION, AND
SILENTLY SET ABOUT HIS TASK.

FIRST, I MUST
RECLAIM THE SWORD
THAT FATHER TOOK.

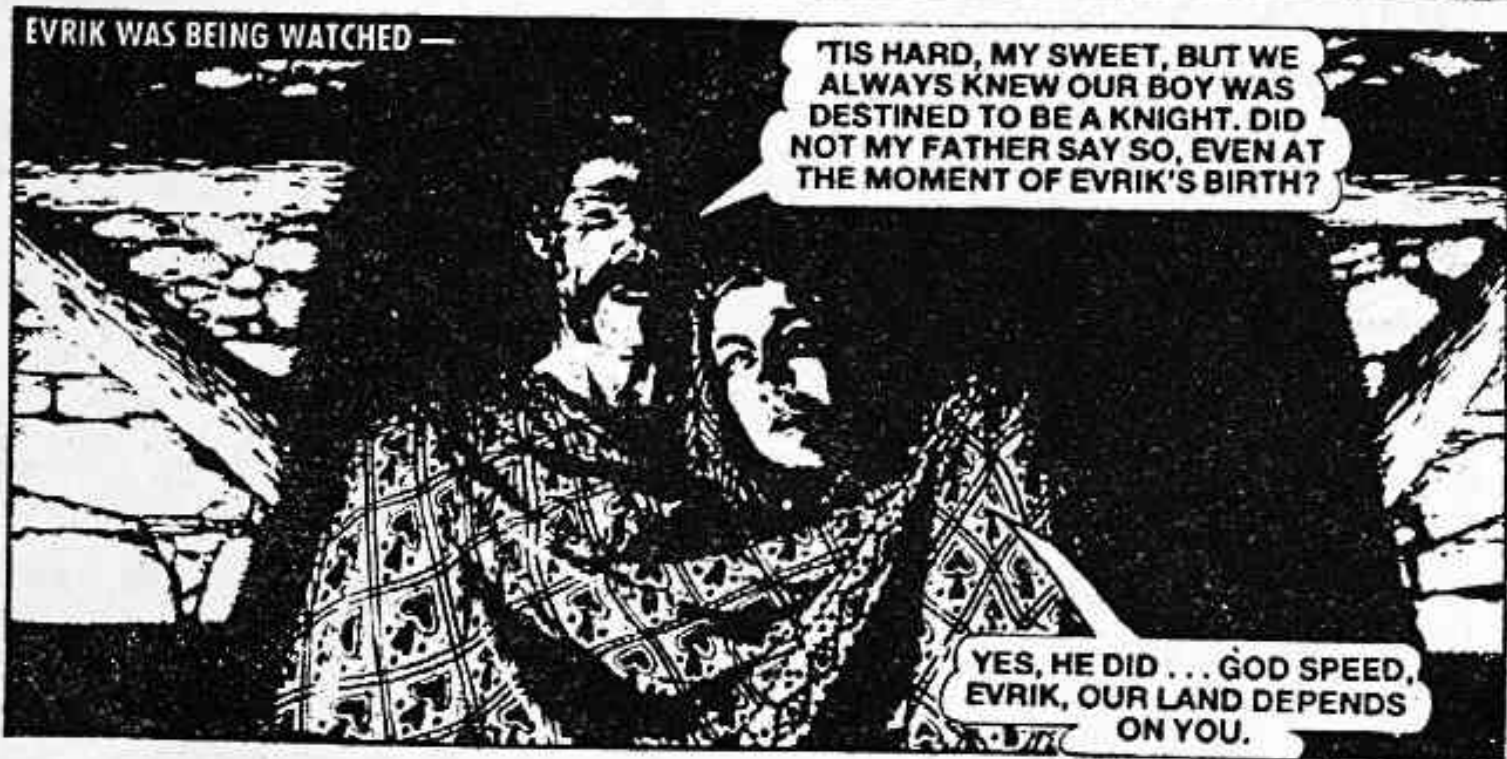


EVRIK RECLAIMED THE
SWORD, WHICH GLOWED
MYSTERIOUSLY AT HIS
TOUCH ...



THE SWORD GLOWS! I KNOW I MUST
GO ... SOMETHING INSIDE ME TELLS ME
TO GO — BUT WHAT AM I MEANT TO DO?

EVRIK WAS BEING WATCHED —



'TIS HARD, MY SWEET, BUT WE
ALWAYS KNEW OUR BOY WAS
DESTINED TO BE A KNIGHT. DID
NOT MY FATHER SAY SO, EVEN AT
THE MOMENT OF EVRIK'S BIRTH?

YES, HE DID ... GOD SPEED,
EVRIK, OUR LAND DEPENDS
ON YOU.

EVRIK ENTERED THE STABLE —

EVRIK!

GRANDFATHER?

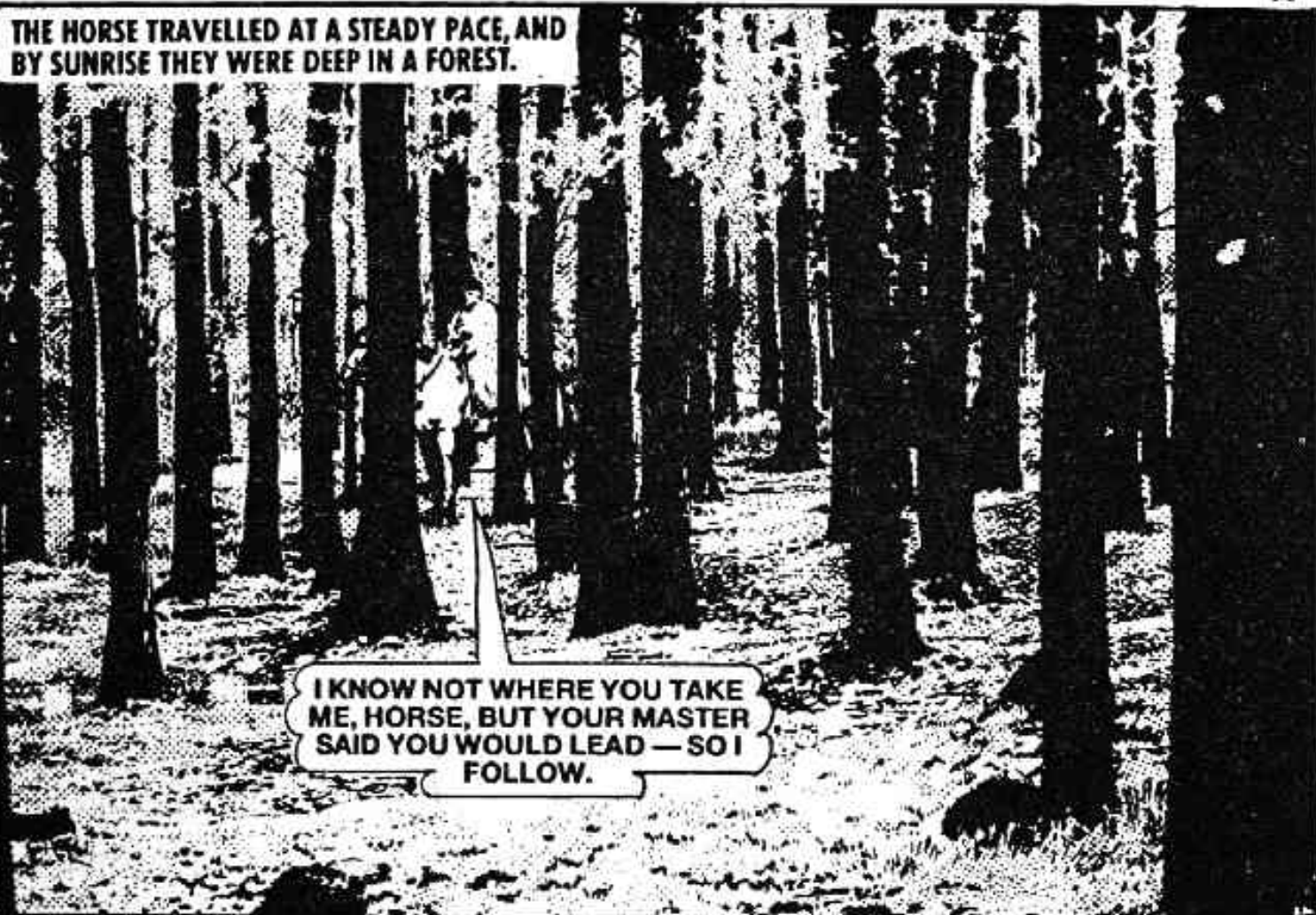


YES! I KNEW YOU WOULD GO!
TAKE CARE, AND FEAR NOT,
THE KNIGHTS ARE WATCHING!

YOU KNEW . . . ALL THESE
YEARS YOU HAVE BEEN
PREPARING ME . . . SAY
GOODBYE TO MOTHER AND
FATHER FOR ME!



THE HORSE TRAVELLED AT A STEADY PACE, AND BY SUNRISE THEY WERE DEEP IN A FOREST.



I KNOW NOT WHERE YOU TAKE ME, HORSE, BUT YOUR MASTER SAID YOU WOULD LEAD — SO I FOLLOW.

EVRIK NODDED SLEEPILY ON HORSE'S BACK ...



EH ... WHAT?

SNORT

A BEDRAGGLED FIGURE GRABBED EVRIK —

BY MY OATH —
FOREST BRIGANDS!



YOU DIE . . . WE TAKE
YOUR POSSESSIONS!

HORSE CAME TO THE RESCUE —



EVRIK PULLED THE BRIGAND
ONTO THE SWORD—



EVRIK CONTINUED, BEMUSED—

BUT FOR HORSE'S WARNING, I SHOULD HAVE BEEN DEAD. IS HE A KNIGHT IN SPIRIT? PERHAPS, HE SEEMS TO KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING.

HORSE UNERRINGLY CHOSE THE MOUNTAINS... EVRIK WISHED HE HADN'T.

I HAD HOPED YOU WOULD TAKE THE EASIER ROUTE, FRIEND. MY KNUCKLES HAVE TURNED WHITE FROM HOLDING ON TO YOU, AND MY SEAT IS FROZEN.

IT WAS MORE THAN HIS KNUCKLES THAT
TURNED WHITE WHEN HE CRESTED A RIDGE.

WELCOME, WELCOME TO MY
HOME, FRIEND. COME, I HAVE
FOOD PREPARED. OH,
WELCOME.

B... BUT... HOW DID
YOU KNOW I WAS COMING?

WARILY EVRIK ENTERED THE COTTAGE —

I AM KNOWN AS EARWAX AND I HAVE
LIVED HERE FOR OVER A HUNDRED
YEARS. I KNOW WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT
YOU SEEK. YOU HAVE A KNIGHT'S SWORD,
BUT WHAT GOOD IS THAT WITHOUT A
SHIELD? I WILL SHOW YOU WHERE IT IS
BUT YOU MUST FETCH IT FOR YOURSELF.
EAT FIRST.

AYE... A SHIELD
WOULD BE A BONUS.

AFTER THE MEAL, EVRIK WAS LED
BACK OUT INTO THE FREEZING COLD—

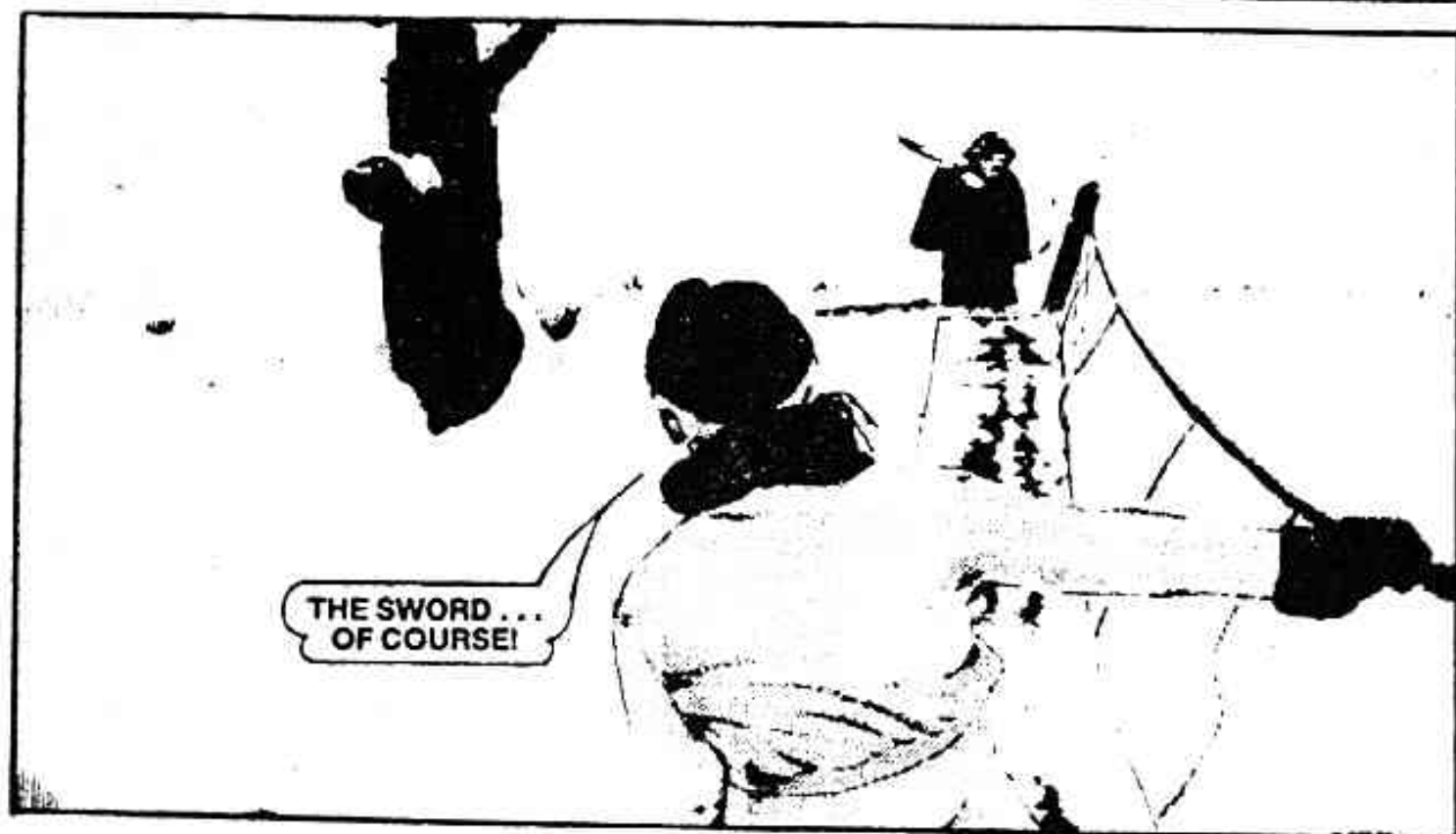
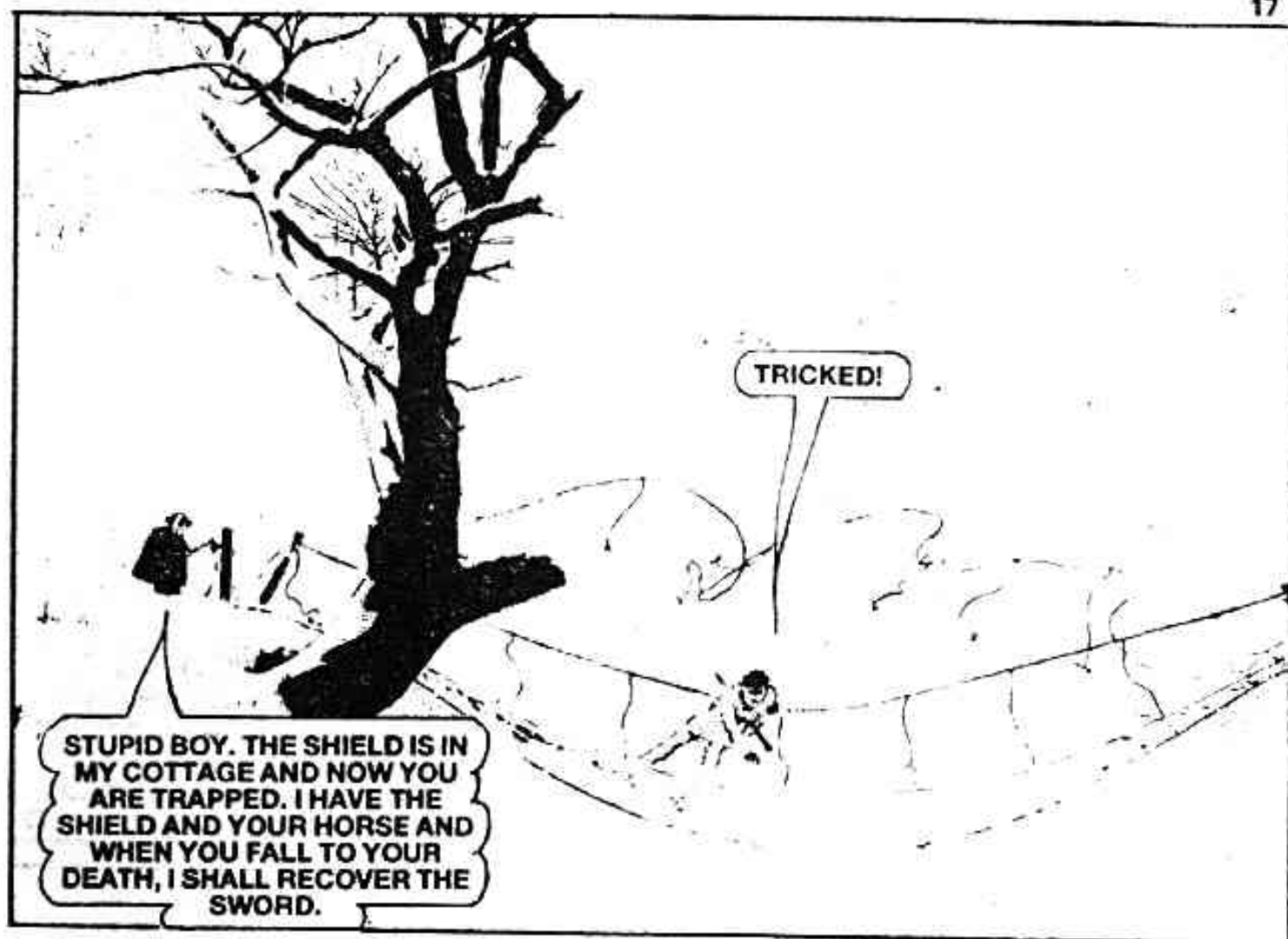
I WOULD GET IT FOR
MYSELF, BUT I AM SCARED
OF HEIGHTS AND DARE NOT
STAND ON THE BRIDGE.

I DO NOT TRUST YOU, UGLY
ONE, FOR YOU KNOW TOO
MUCH ABOUT ME! BUT I WILL
GO.

EVRIK CROSSED THE PRECARIOUS BRIDGE.

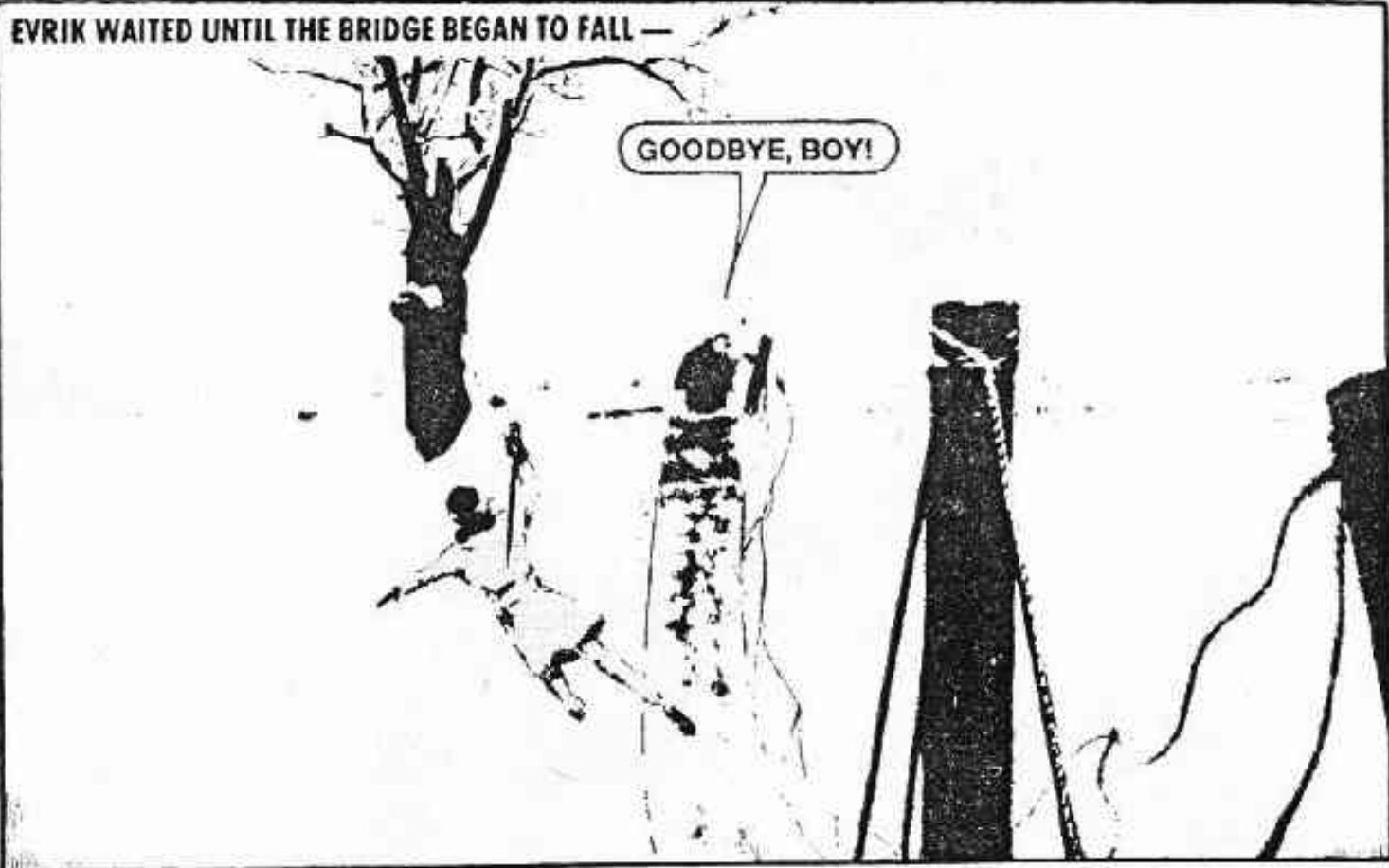
THERE IS NOTHING
HERE BUT THE MIST.






EVRIK WAITED UNTIL THE BRIDGE BEGAN TO FALL —

GOODBYE, BOY!



WITH A DESPERATE LUNGE, HE HURLED HIMSELF
AT THE TREE — THE SWORD STUCK FIRM.

YOU REPULSIVE
CREATURE! I'M COMING
TO CLAIM WHAT IS MINE . . .



... NOW!




EVRIK CLAIMED THE
SHIELD AND LEFT.

I'VE GOT TWO PIECES OF
THE KNIGHT'S ARMOUR! NOW WHAT?


DON'T LEAVE ME
HERE! I'M SCARED OF
HEIGHTS! PLEASE
CUT ME DOWN. I
DIDN'T MEAN IT, IT
WAS JUST A JOKE.
HELP!

HORSE PLODDED TOWARDS THE GREAT RIVER, REACHING THE CROSSING POINT DAYS LATER.

SO THIS IS THE
ONLY FERRY?




YES... AND NOBODY WANTS TO CROSS.
ON THIS SIDE OF THE RIVER, EVIL
ABOUNDS. NO MATTER HOW CALM,
PEACEFUL OR BEAUTIFUL IT IS,
ALWAYS BE ON YOUR GUARD FOR
THAT IS WHEN EVIL WILL STRIKE.



I HEED YOUR WORDS,
OLD MAN — I WILL BE
CAREFUL, THANK YOU.

HAVING SPENT THREE DAYS TRAILING
THROUGH THE FOREST, EVRIK WAS
BEGINNING TO TIRE OF TREES.



AFTER THIS JOURNEY,
HORSE, I NEVER WANT TO
SEE ANOTHER TREE
AGAIN... BUT HOLD, I SEE
A SMOKING CHIMNEY OVER
YONDER. 'TIS HOPED THAT
ANOTHER DWARF DOES
NOT AWAIT US!

THE OCCUPIER WAS FAR FROM BEING AN UGLY DWARF—

HA, YOUNG TRAVELLER.
HOW CAN I SERVE YOU?

OH...I...ER...I...
I...WOULD L...LIKE
TO REST HERE A WHILE
—IF I...IF I MAY?

EYRIK WAS INVITED INSIDE—

THIS IS A FINE
LANTERN THAT YOU
HAVE. MAY I LOOK AT
IT?

IT IS VERY OLD — I WOULD
RATHER IT WERE LEFT WHERE
IT IS. COME NOW, THE SOUP IS
READY FOR EATING.

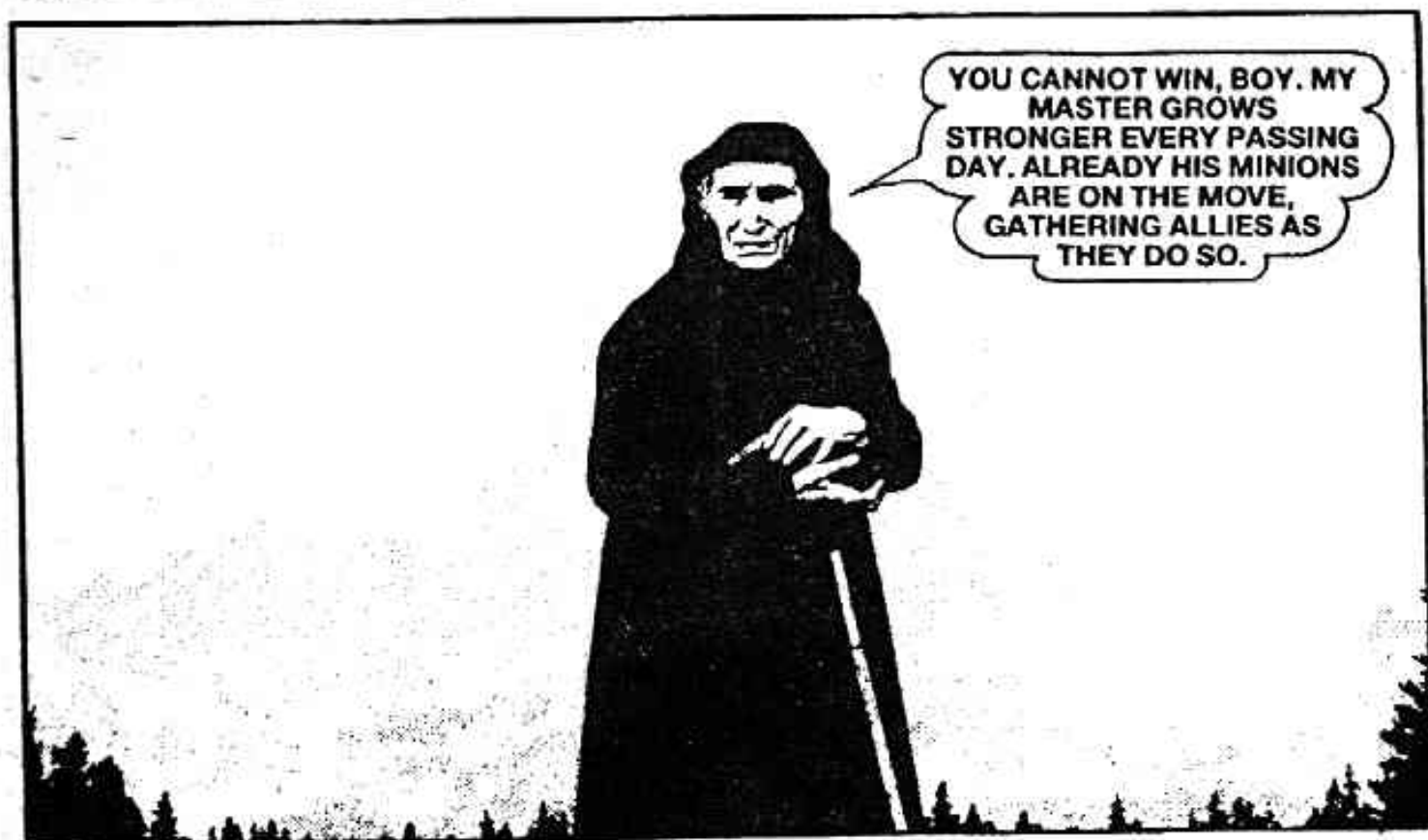
BUT THE YOUNG EVRIK HAD NOT HEEDED THE WORDS OF THE FERRYMAN, AND AS HE LAY DOWN AFTER THE MEAL—

MY EYES GROW HEAVY
AND MY MIND IS
CLOUDED. I MUST
SLEEP . . . SLEEP!

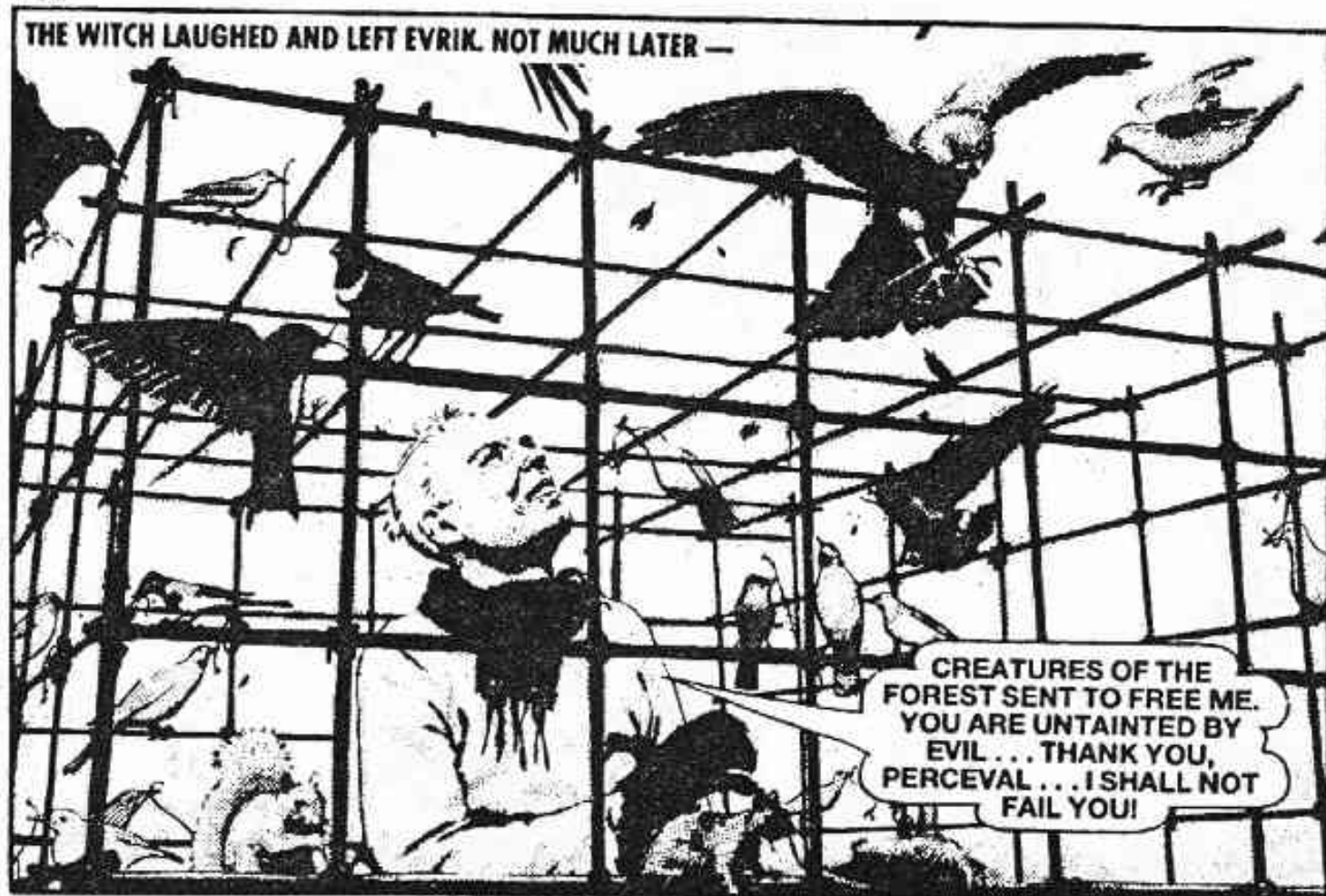
SLEEP, YOUNG SIR, AND ENJOY IT!
FOR IT COULD BE THE LAST THING
THAT YOU EVER DO.

EVRIK AWOKE TO THE SIGHT OF BARS—

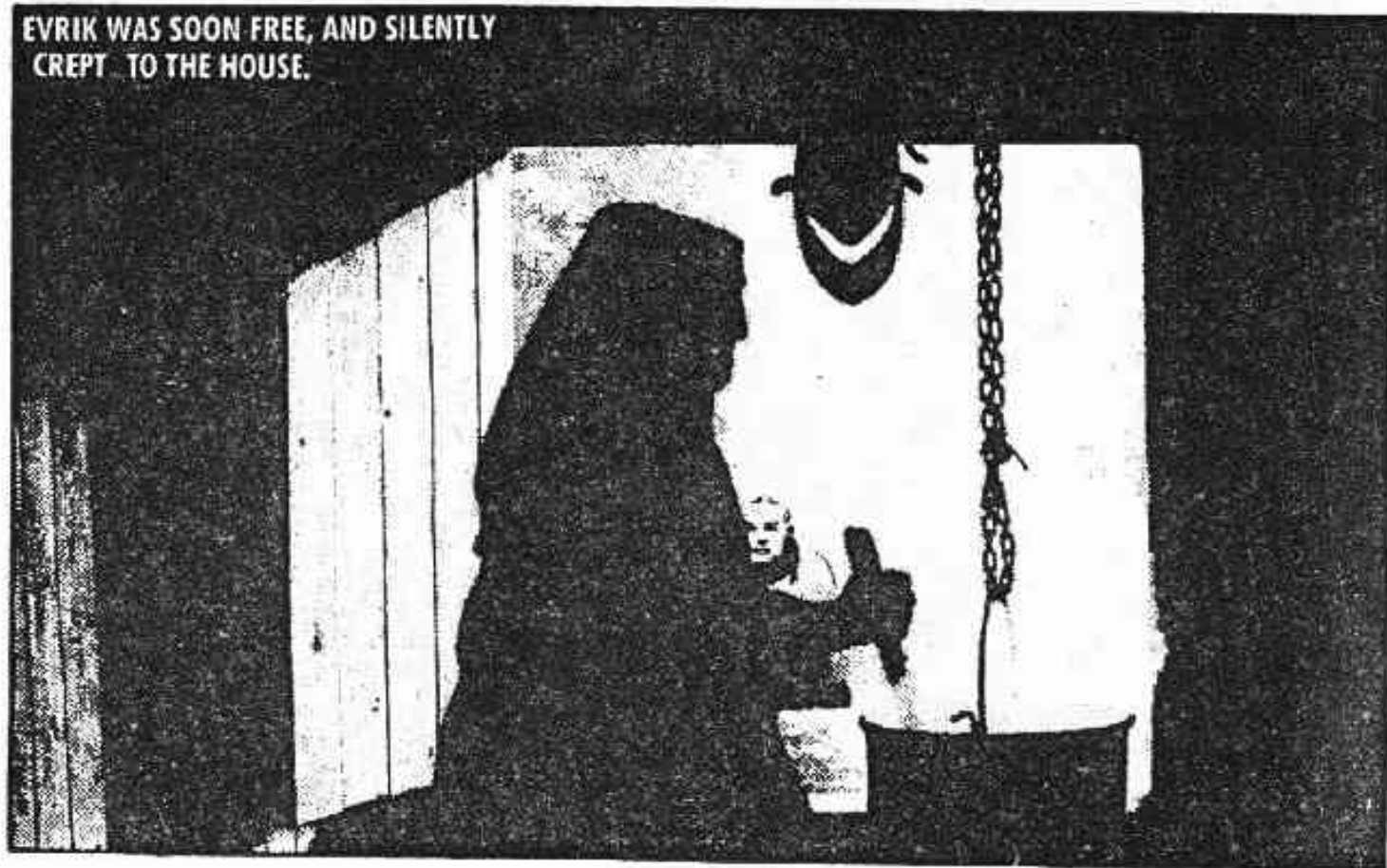
DRUGGED! AGAIN I HAVE
BEEN FOOLED. I DIDN'T
LISTEN! PERHAPS I AM
STUPID AFTER ALL. THIS
EVIL IS ALREADY TAKING
HOLD OF THE LAND.



THE WITCH LAUGHED AND LEFT EVRIK. NOT MUCH LATER —

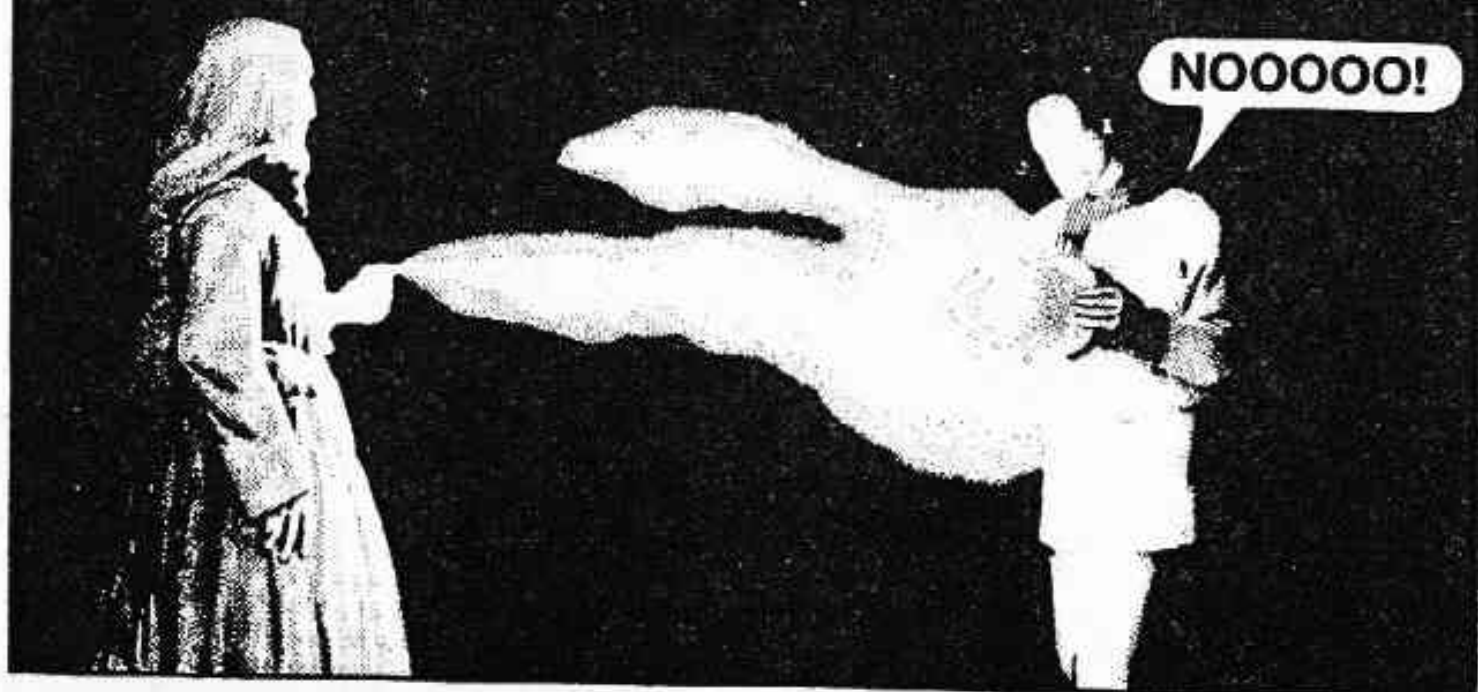


EVRIK WAS SOON FREE, AND SILENTLY
CREPT TO THE HOUSE.

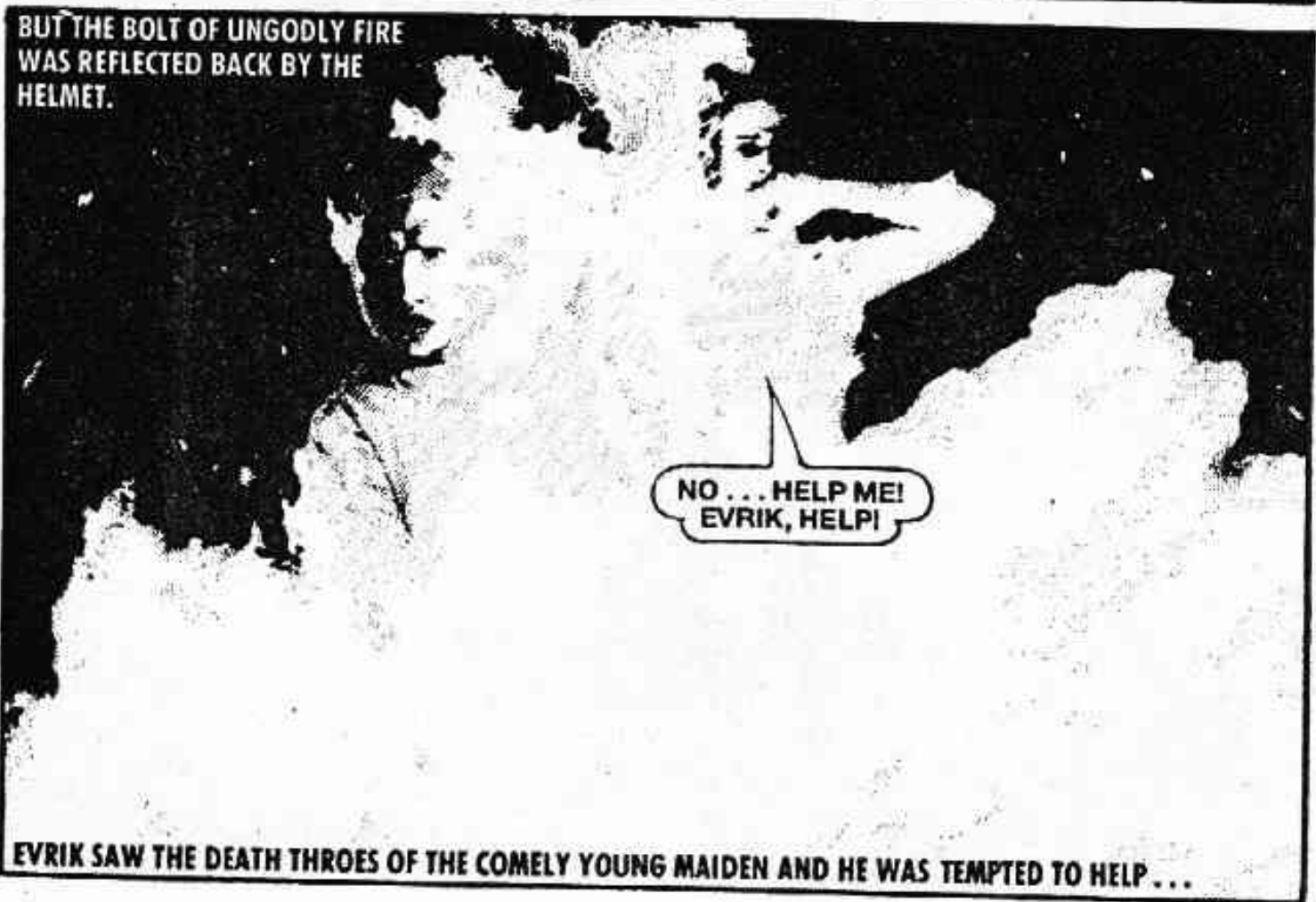




THE WITCH USED OCCULT
POWERS TO DEAL WITH
EVRIK —



BUT THE BOLT OF UNGODLY FIRE
WAS REFLECTED BACK BY THE
HELMET.



EVRIK SAW THE DEATH THROES OF THE COMELY YOUNG MAIDEN AND HE WAS TEMPTED TO HELP ...

BUT THE WORDS OF THE FERRYMAN ECHOED IN HIS MIND. PAUSING ONLY LONG ENOUGH TO GATHER THE SWORD, HELMET AND SHIELD, EVRIK FLED.

**FASTER, HORSE,
FASTER!**



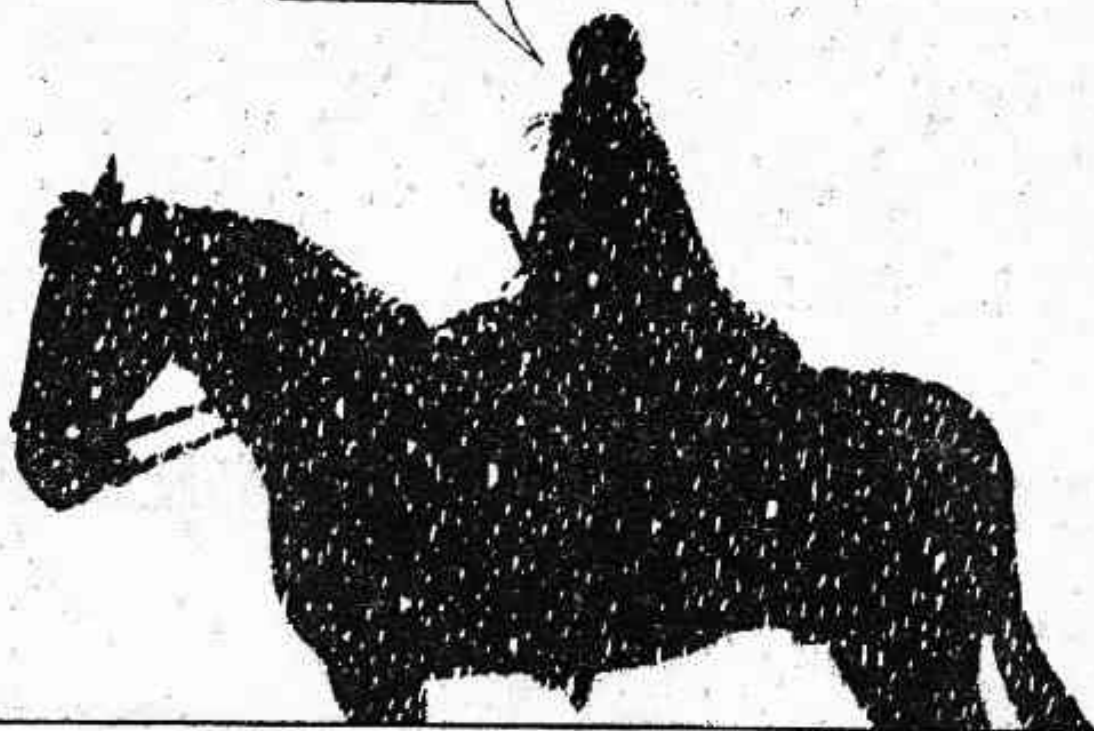
**FOR DAYS, HORSE AND EVRIK
TRAVELLED, AND IN THE DESERT OF THE
NORTH.**

**WHY DOES IT BURN SO HOT WHEN
THE SUN IS BLOTTED OUT? THERE
SHOULD BE RAIN FROM SUCH
DARK CLOUDS YET NONE HAS
FALLEN.**



ABRUPTLY, EVERYTHING CHANGED —

SNOW? HOW
CAN THIS BE?



MY WORLD IS CHANGING,
HORSE. EVERYTHING IS
UPSIDE DOWN — NOTHING
MAKES SENSE ANYMORE.
YOU CANNOT HAVE SNOW
IN A DESERT, YET IT FALLS.
I FEAR THE DAY WHEN THE
EVIL IS AT ITS STRONGEST.
GRANDFATHER WAS RIGHT,
ARDARIA WILL BE FINISHED.



THEY SOUGHT SHELTER IN A CAVE.

SUCH A STORM I HAVE
NEVER SEEN BEFORE — IT
CHILLS THE BLOOD. A FIRE
WILL GIVE US SOME
WARMTH THEN WE CAN
EAT.



WE HAVE TRAVELLED LONG
AND HARD, FRIEND. I STILL
DO NOT KNOW WHAT OUR
QUEST IS!



EYES THAT HAD BEEN WATCHING FROM
THE SHADOWS MOVED FORWARD.



OH ... PRESERVE US! WE'RE
IN A BEAST'S LAIR!



SLOWLY EVRIK RETREATED, BUT STUMBLER...

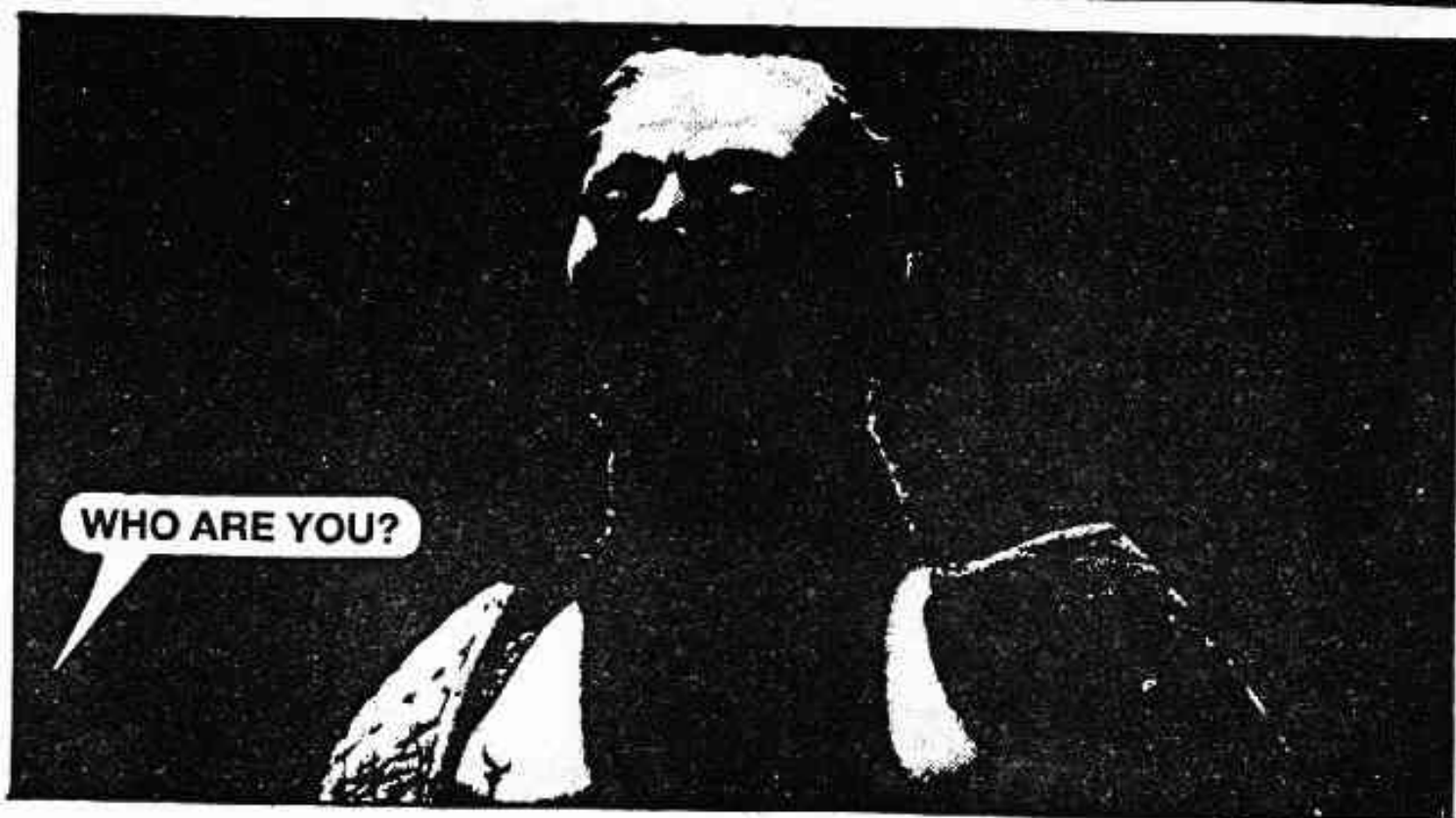
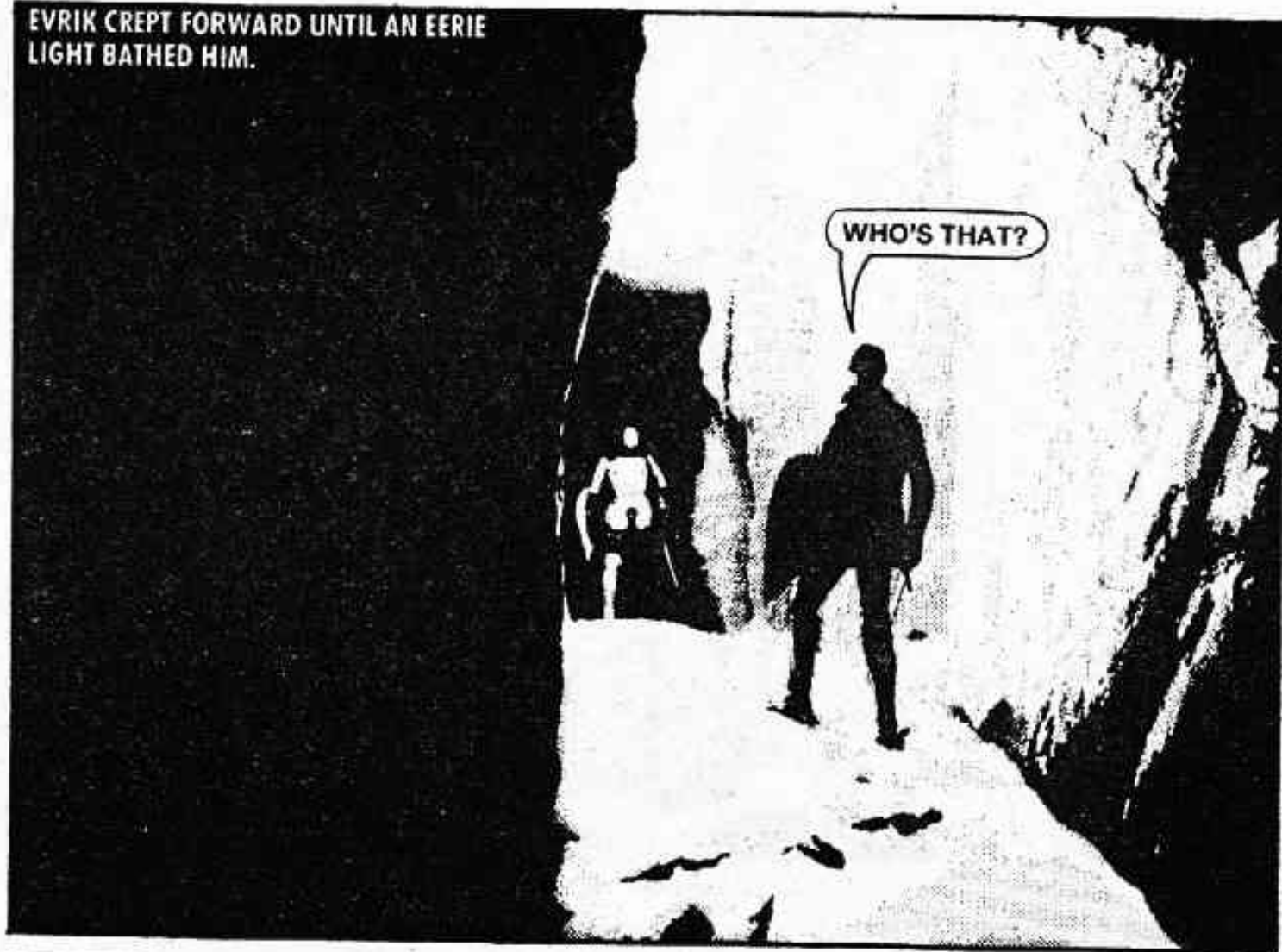


EVRIK SCRABBLED
ON THE GROUND—

IT'S A BREASTPLATE!
AND WAIT ... THE BEAST IS NO
LONGER INTERESTED
IN ME!

TIGER ... I THINK YOU ARE THE
SPIRIT OF YET ANOTHER KNIGHT
SENT TO WATCH OVER ME! SOMETHING
TELLS ME THAT THIS CAVE WILL PROVIDE
THE ANSWERS TO ALL MY QUESTIONS.

EVRIK CREPT FORWARD UNTIL AN EERIE
LIGHT BATHED HIM.



IT'S A MIRROR OF ICE! IS THAT TALL
MUSCULAR FELLOW REALLY ME? HOW
MUCH I HAVE GROWN IN ELEVEN MOONS!

SLOWLY THE TRUTH DAWNED —
THIS WAS WHAT HE WAS MEANT
TO DO . . . BUILD UP HIS STRENGTH
OF MIND AND BODY IN HIS YEAR
LONG SEARCH FOR THE KNIGHT'S
ARMOUR. EVRIK NOW KNEW HE
WAS READY FOR WHAT WAS TO
COME.

THE FINAL BATTLE WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN.

FOR ARDARIA! COME, HORSE
AND TIGER. WE FIGHT!



ALREADY THE EVIL WAS SPREADING
OVER THE LAND, CREATING HAVOC
AND MAYHEM.



BUT THESE WERE ONLY MINOR DEVILS,
SENT OUT TO BREAK THE SPIRIT OF THE
PEOPLE BEFORE THE MAIN FORCE BEGAN
TO MOVE. EVRIK KNEW THAT IT WAS THE
ALL-POWERFUL EVIL HE HAD TO CONFRONT.

BUT EVRIK FOUGHT THE
DEMONS WHERE AND WHEN
HE FOUND THEM.



EVRIK'S EXPLOITS DID NOT GO UNNOTICED.

... HE IS MOVING SWIFTLY,
MASTER, HEADING THIS
WAY.



SO THE BROTHERHOOD OF
KNIGHTS CONTINUES. WE MUST
PREPARE A WELCOME FOR HIM,
THIS LAST HOPE OF ARDARIA.
OUR MAIN FORCE WILL CONTINUE
WITH ITS ATTACK — NOTHING
WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP US
NOW. VICTORY SHALL BE MINE.



**EVRIK MOVED FURTHER NORTHWARDS AS
ANOTHER STORM BLACKENED THE SKIES.**

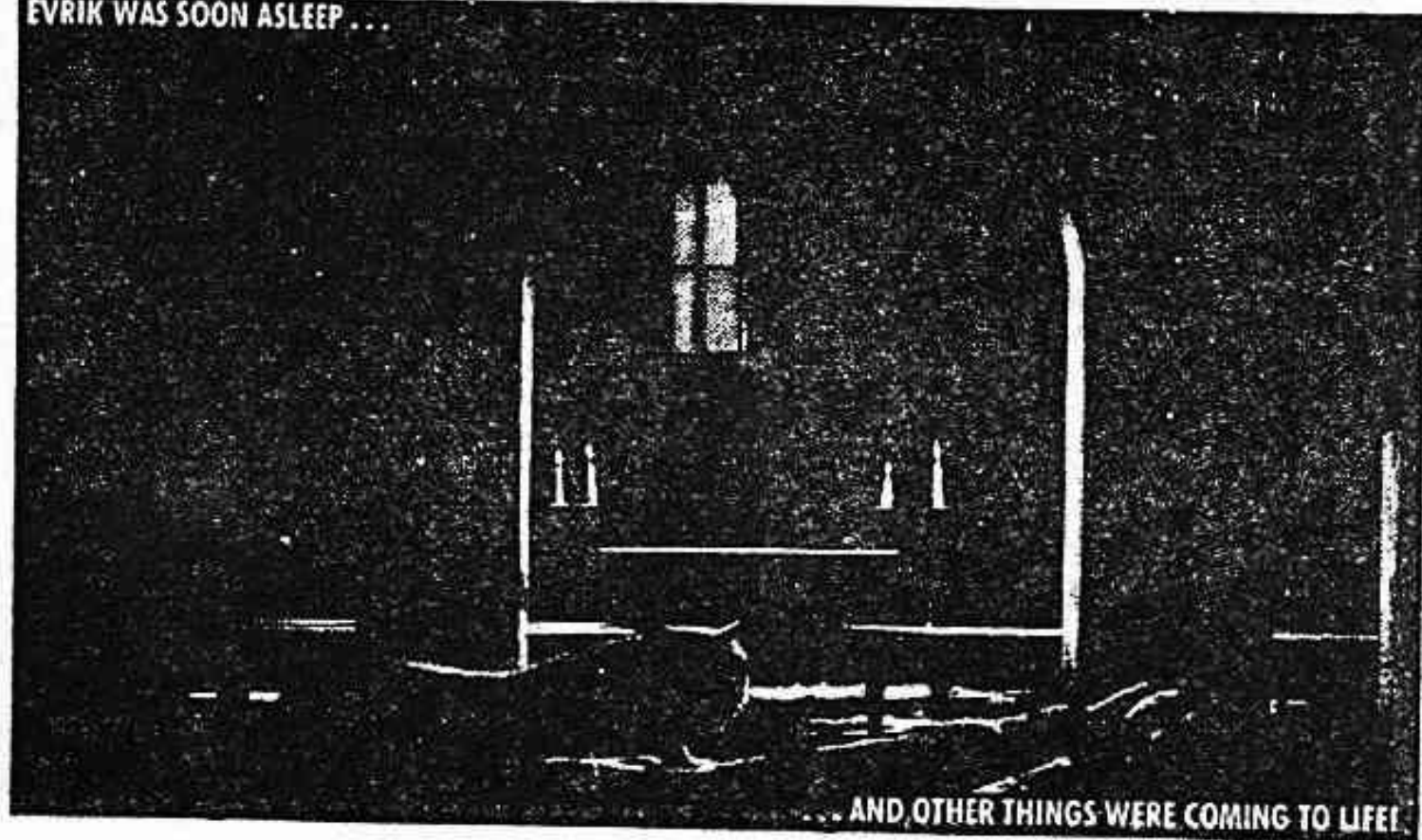
THIS RAIN ALONE WILL BE THE
CAUSE OF MANY DEATHS FOR MY
PEOPLE. FLOODS WILL SWEEP
MANY VILLAGES AWAY WHEN THE
RIVER BANKS BURST, CROPS WILL
BE RUINED. IF WE CANNOT FIND
SHELTER SOON, I FEAR THAT MY
ARMOUR SHALL RUST.



SANCTUARY! A HOLY PLACE.
HOPEFULLY WE SHALL
SHELTER FROM THIS EVIL AS
WELL AS THE RAIN.

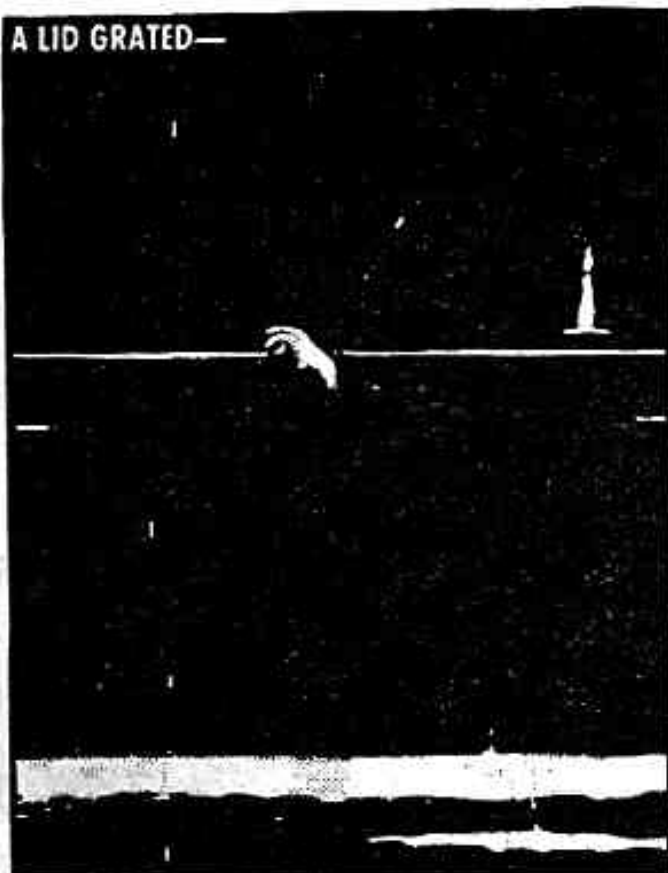


EVRIK WAS SOON ASLEEP...



AND OTHER THINGS WERE COMING TO LIFE!

A LID GRATED—



SLEEP WELL, KNIGHT, FOR
IT SHALL LAST FOR ETERNITY.



BUT EVRIK HAD A GUARDIAN—



WHAT IS IT, TIGER? A
ZOMBIE! IT BELONGS
WITH THE DEAD.

ROAR!

AINE!

A NOISE BEHIND HIM CAUSED THE WARRIOR TO SPIN ROUND—



HUH!



COMPANY!

GREETINGS, GREAT
KNIGHT,
FROM OUR MASTER.



EVRIK STRUCK THE FIRST OF HIS ATTACKERS WITH A VICIOUS BLOW AS THE TIGER ATTACKED THE OTHERS.



**EVRIK RAN OUTSIDE,
WHERE HORSE
AWAITED—**

THANK YOU,
HORSE. NOW WE
MUST AWAY WITH
HASTE WHILE OUR
FRIENDS ARE
INDISPOSED.

BUT—

I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU,
KNIGHT. NOW, PREPARE TO DIE.

FOR VICTORY!



FOR PEACE!



METAL CLASHED WITH METAL—

SO YOU HAVE A
KNIGHT'S SKILLS!



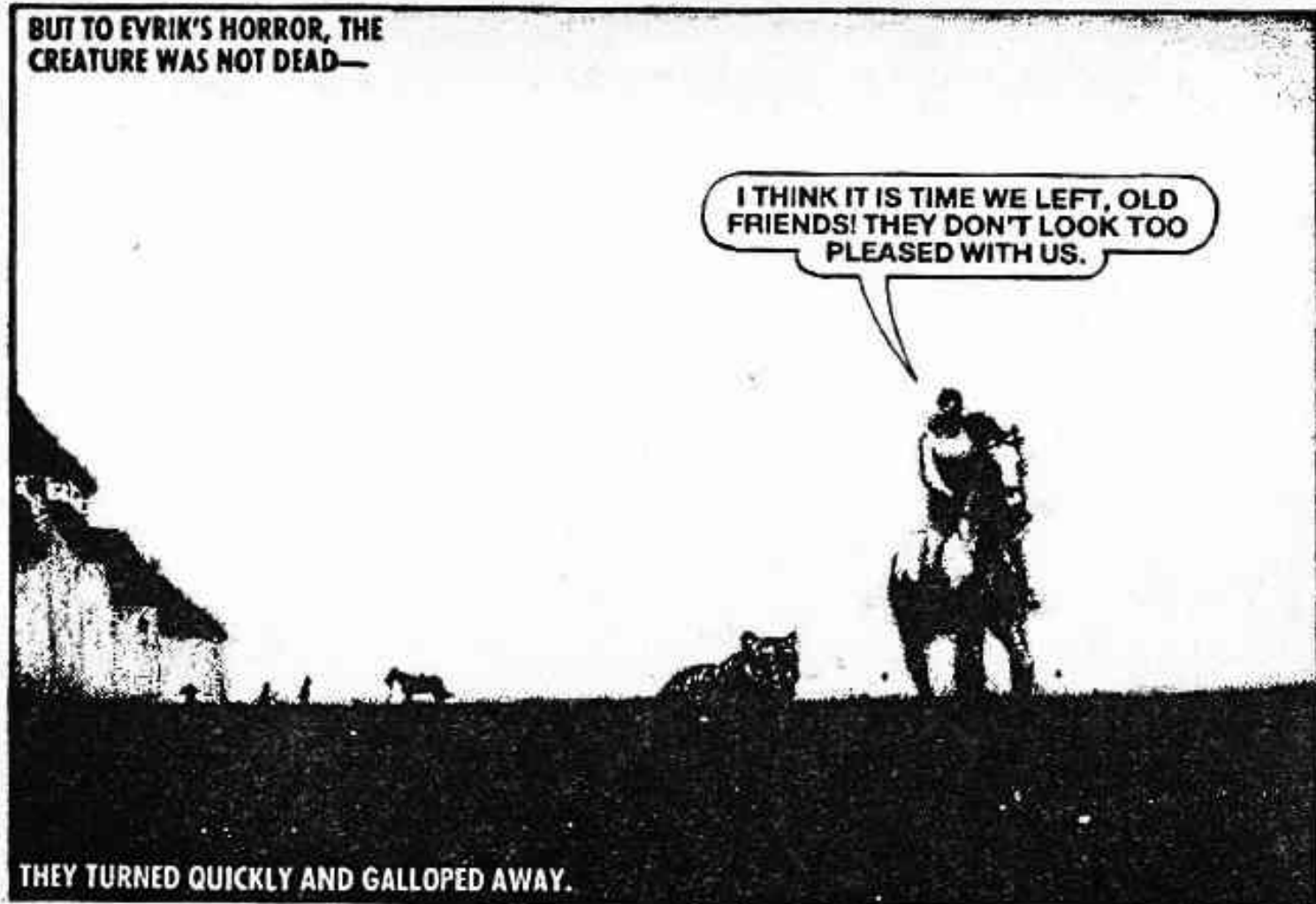
THEY TURNED AND CHARGED A SECOND TIME.

THE DEED SHALL BE
DONE THIS TIME.





**BUT TO EVRIK'S HORROR, THE
CREATURE WAS NOT DEAD—**



THEY TURNED QUICKLY AND GALLOPED AWAY.

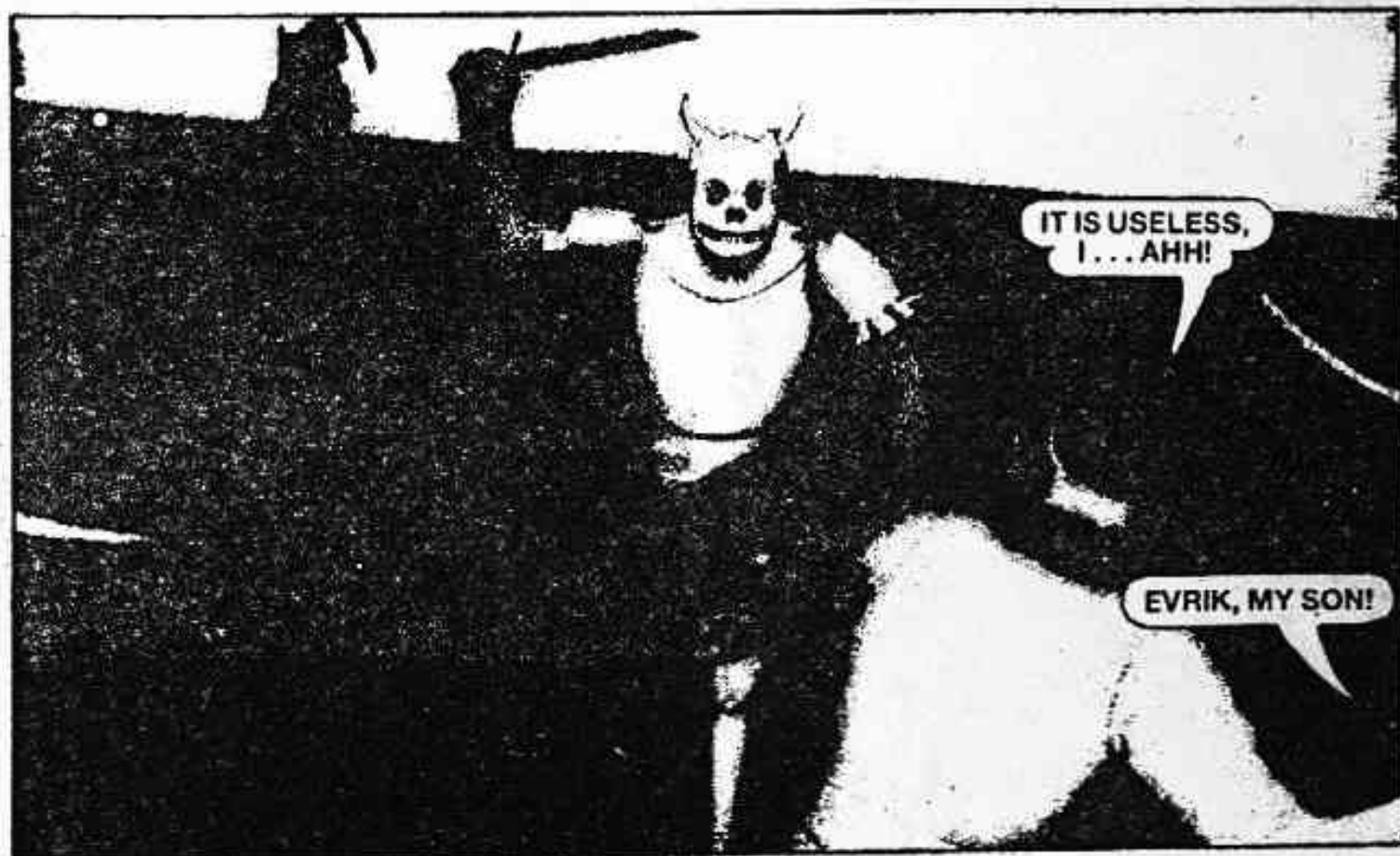
IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO KILL THE
UNDEAD BY NORMAL MEANS.



MASTER, THE TIME IS NOW.
THAT KNIGHT IS
DANGEROUS. WE HAVE
DELAYED HIM LONG
ENOUGH.

THE UNDEAD COMMANDER INVOKED EVIL ASSISTANCE.

WH ...



EVRIK SPUN ROUND—



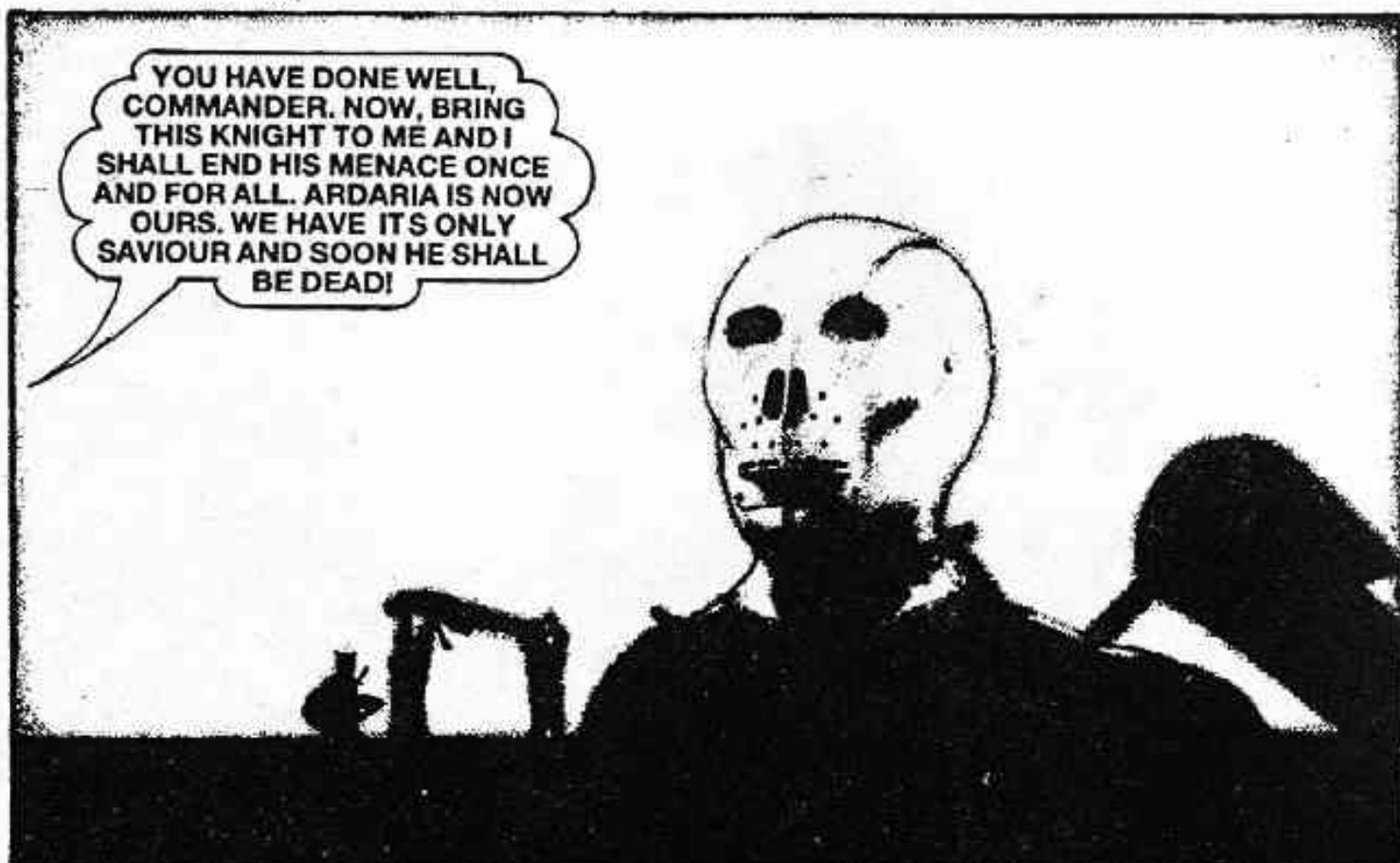
THE EVIL FORCES HAD POWERS TO CONFUSE EVEN THE STRONGEST.

EVRIK HESITATED AT THE SPECTRE OF HIS MOTHER, AND WAS CLUBBED TO THE GROUND—

ALIVE! I HAVE
NEED OF YOU!



YOU HAVE DONE WELL,
COMMANDER. NOW, BRING
THIS KNIGHT TO ME AND I
SHALL END HIS MENACE ONCE
AND FOR ALL. ARDARIA IS NOW
OURS. WE HAVE ITS ONLY
SAVIOUR AND SOON HE SHALL
BE DEAD!




**EVRIK WAS TAKEN TO THE DOMAIN OF
THE EVIL ONE — A DESOLATE PLACE,
REEKING OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.**




**IN THEIR UNDERGROUND FORTRESS, THE
EVIL LEGION PREPARED FOR ITS FINAL
ASSAULT ON ARDARIA.**





YOU WILL MAKE GOOD SPORT,
KNIGHT. LIKE YOUR BROTHERS
BEFORE YOU, YOU WILL BE
CHALLENGED BY OUR GREATST
WARRIORS IN THIS ARENA, AND
DIE AS ALL THE OTHERS HAVE
DONE.

EVRIK, STILL DAZED, WAS FORCED TO
MOUNT HORSE IN PREPARATION FOR
HIS FIGHT.



MOUNT, MORTAL . . . IT
IS TIME TO DIE.

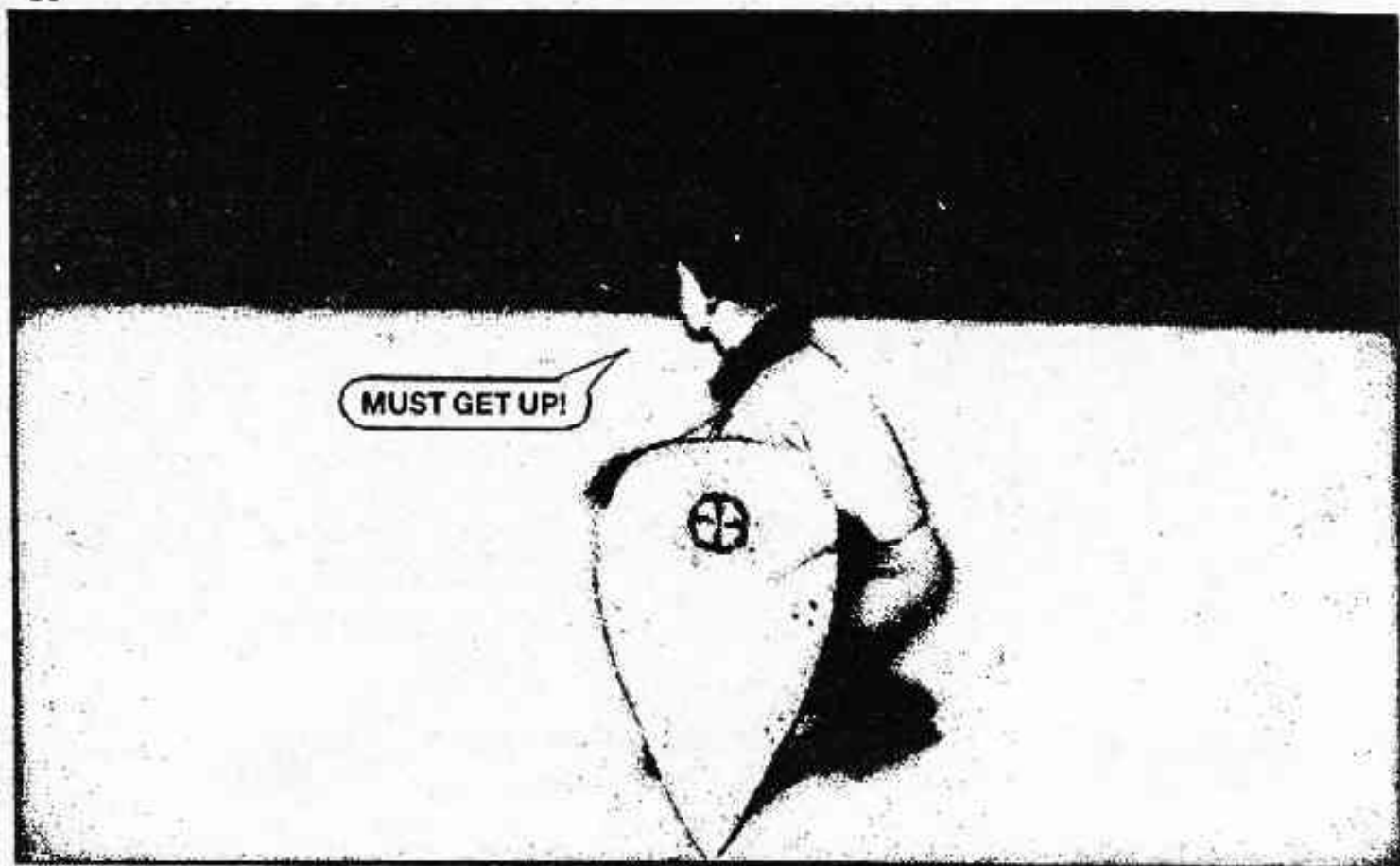
TOO DAZED, EVRIK DIDN'T NOTICE THE
COMMANDER CHARGING.



NO SOONER WAS EVRIK IN THE SADDLE
THAN A BLOW FROM THE COMMANDER'S
HORSE KNOCKED HIM FLYING.

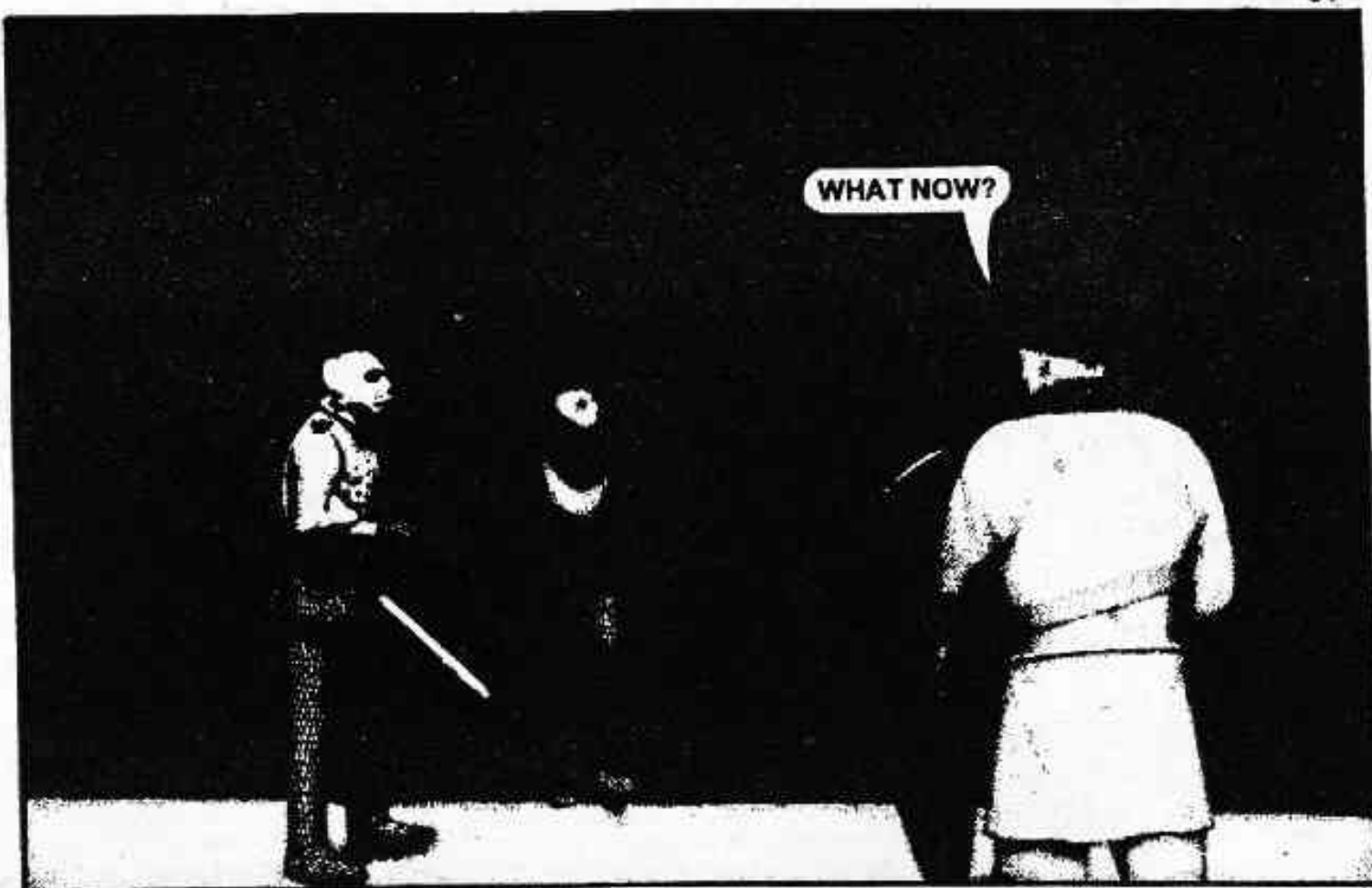
AH...WHAT?





BUT EVRIK WAS TOO SLOW —





THE FIRST DEMON WASTED NO TIME . . .

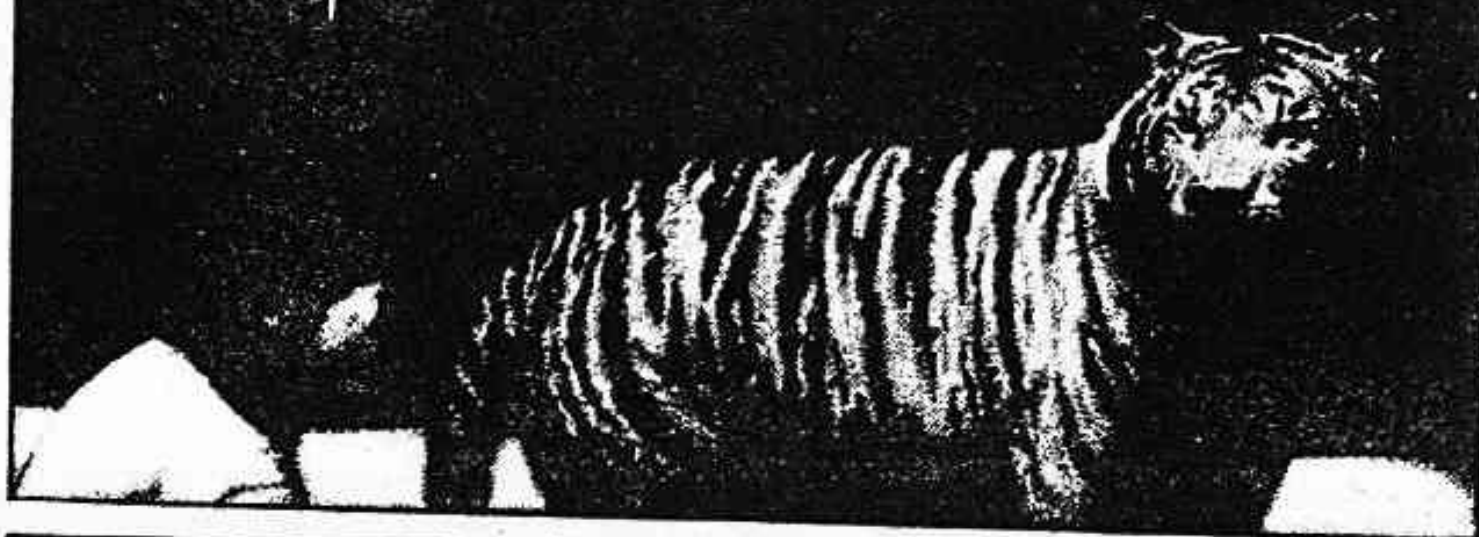


THROUGH THE MISTS OF SEMI-CONSCIOUSNESS, EVRIK HEARD A SNARL.



IT WAS TIGER! SLOWLY AN IDEA FILTERED INTO HIS BRAIN ... A SOLUTION TO THE KILLING OF THE UNDEAD.

BEAST ... YOU STILL WATCH! I HAVE ALL THE ARMOUR, YET I CANNOT KILL THE UNDEAD. HOW ... UNLESS ...



EVRIK PUT THE HEAVY HELMET ON FOR THE FIRST TIME. HE FELT A POWER, A GLOW, AN INNER STRENGTH, AND HE KNEW HE HAD FINALLY FOUND THE SECRET OF THE ARDARIAN KNIGHTS. ONLY WITH ALL THE BLESSED ARMOUR ON COULD THE POWERS OF GOOD COMBAT THE DEMON LORD.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

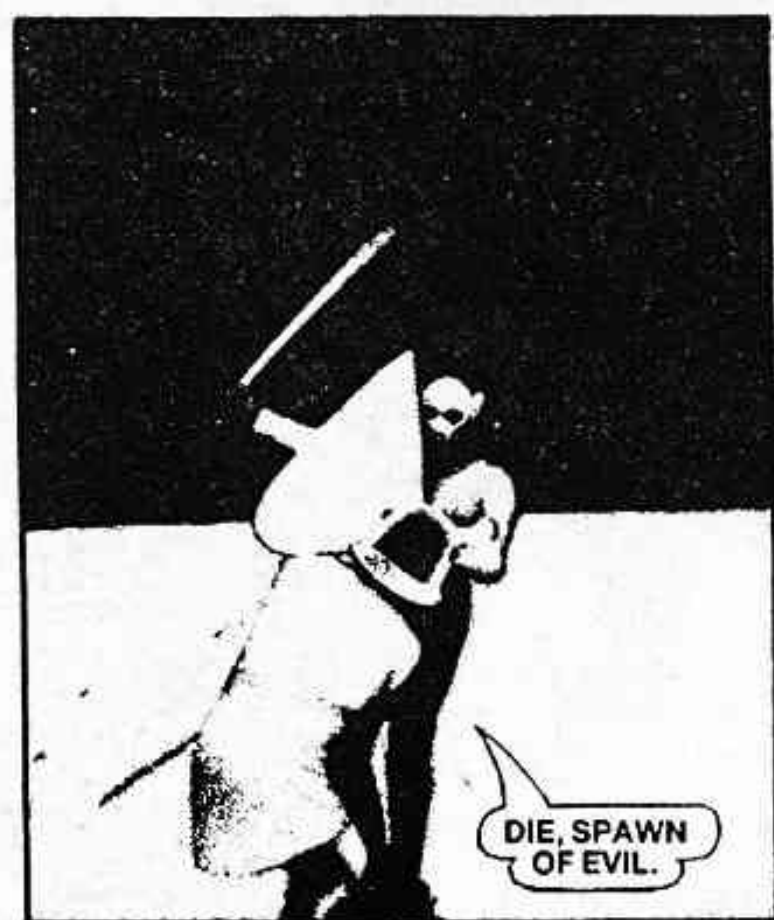


EVRIK CHARGED AT THE DEMONS, HIS WILL TO FIGHT RETURNED.

NOW IT IS
MY TURN!

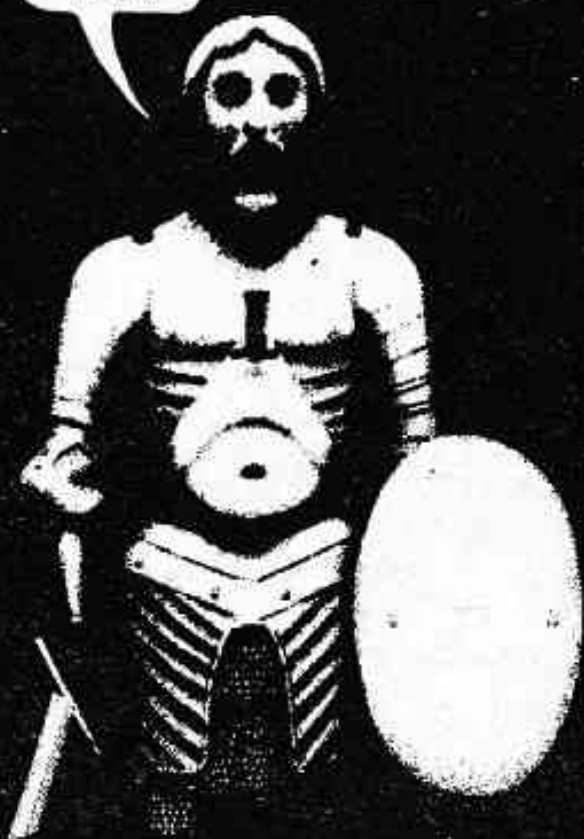


YOUR SKULL MAY BE
THICK, DEMON, BUT YOUR
JAW IS NOT.



DIE, SPAWN
OF EVIL.

YOU KILLED MY BROTHER! FOR
THAT YOU WILL SUFFER GREAT
PAIN!



EVRIK PARRIED THE ONSLAUGHT —

YOUR WORDS ARE
SPOKEN WITH HASTE!



DIE!



YET ANOTHER OF THE UNDEAD APPEARED—

YOU HAVE GONE FAR ENOUGH,
KNIGHT. NOW YOU DIE!



EVRIK WAS HEADBUTTED —

OOOF!



OH, NO
YOU DON'T!



EVRIK LASHED OUT
WITH HIS FEET...

... AND THRUST HIS SWORD INTO
THE BODY OF THE INHUMAN
BEING.

AAAAIEEE!

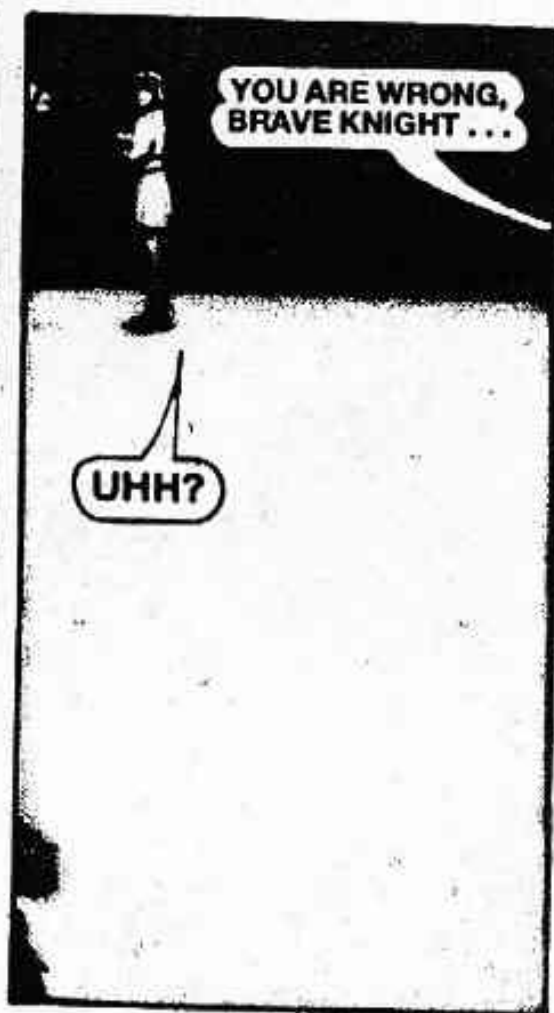


WE HAVE SURVIVED, OLD FRIEND.
NO SERIOUS DAMAGE HAS BEEN
DONE.



YOU ARE WRONG,
BRAVE KNIGHT ...

UHH?



YOUR TROUBLES ARE
JUST BEGINNING.



IT WAS THE EVIL ONE HIMSELF... THE
LORD OF DARKNESS, RULER OF THE
UNDEAD.

EVRIK DUCKED UNDER THE POWERFUL ARMS...



YOU MOVE FAST, BUT
NOT FAST ENOUGH.



BUT THE EVIL ONE'S TAIL SWEEP EVRIK OFF HIS FEET.

I AM FAST ENOUGH FOR
YOU, YOUNG PUP.

AAGHHH!

THE EVIL ONE CLOSED IN,
JAWS AGAPE, AS EVRIK LAY
HELPLESS—

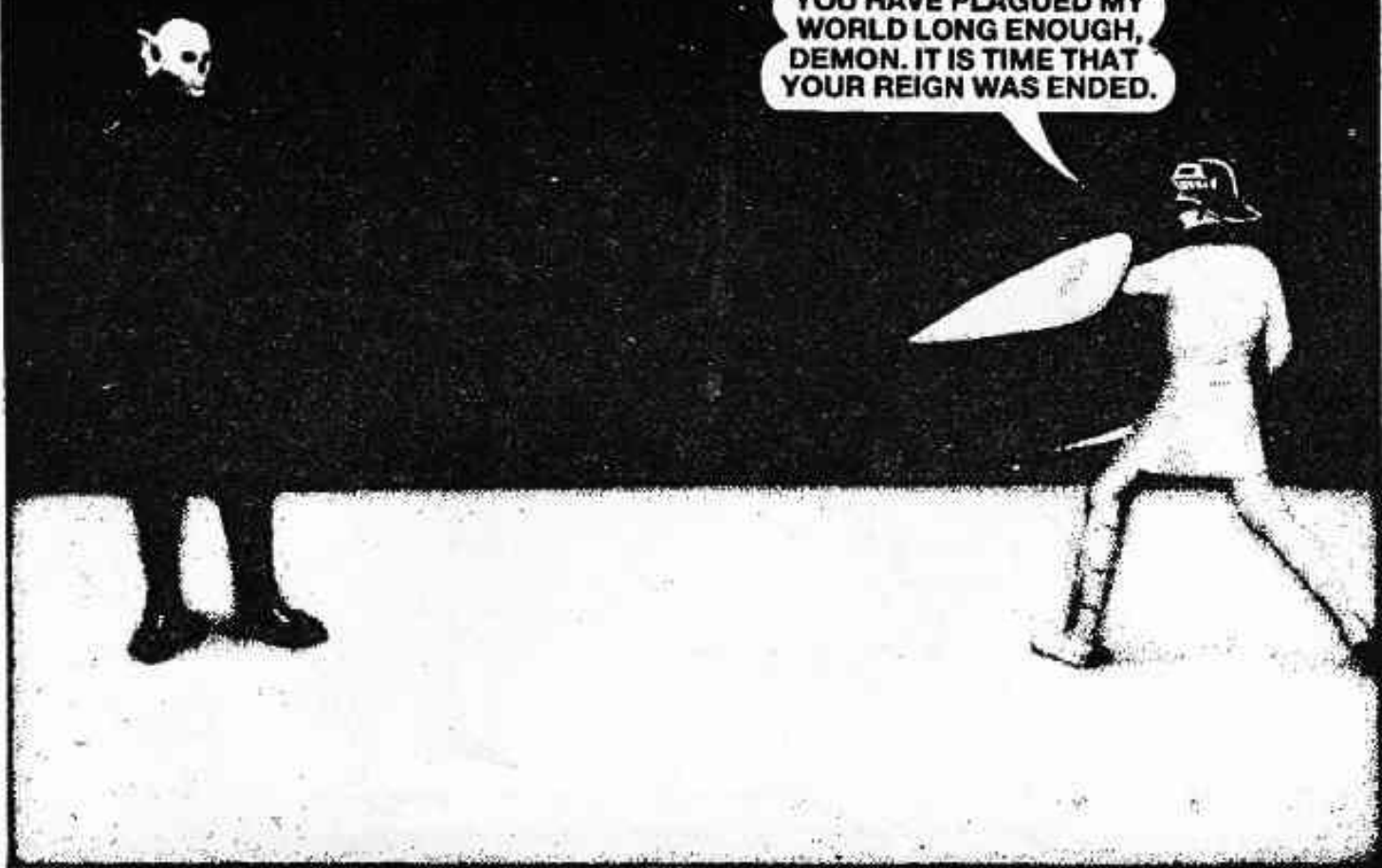
NOOOOO!

BUT EVRIK GATHERED THE
LAST OF HIS STRENGTH.

I AM NOT READY TO BE
YOUR DINNER, UGLY ONE!

THEY PAUSED MOMENTARILY, EACH SIZING THE OTHER ONE UP.

YOU HAVE PLAGUED MY
WORLD LONG ENOUGH,
DEMON. IT IS TIME THAT
YOUR REIGN WAS ENDED.



BUT AS THE EVIL ONE PREPARED
TO STRIKE, BEAST POUNCED —

BEAST ... YOU GIVE ME
THE CHANCE.

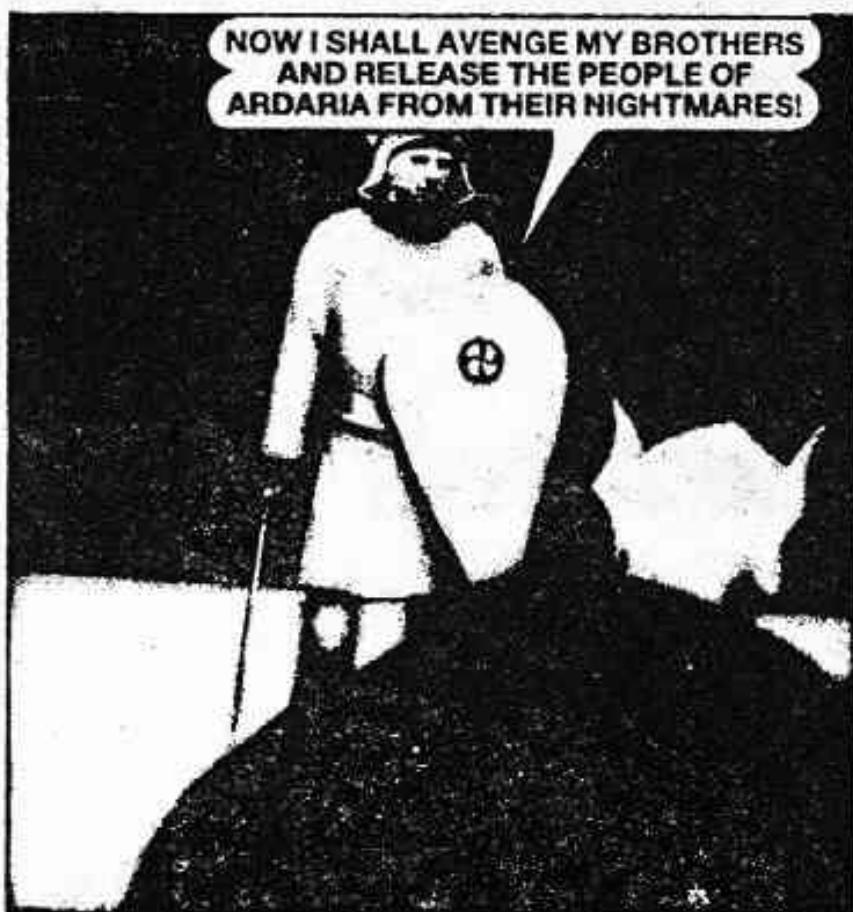
GROOWL!



EVRIK APPROACHED —



NOW I SHALL AVENGE MY BROTHERS
AND RELEASE THE PEOPLE OF
ARDARIA FROM THEIR NIGHTMARES!



AARRGGHHHHHHH!

IN ITS DEATH THROES, THE
EVIL BEING WENT BERSERK.

CURSE YOU ...
CURSE THIS LAND.



EVRIK REMOVED HIS
HELMET IN TRIUMPH—

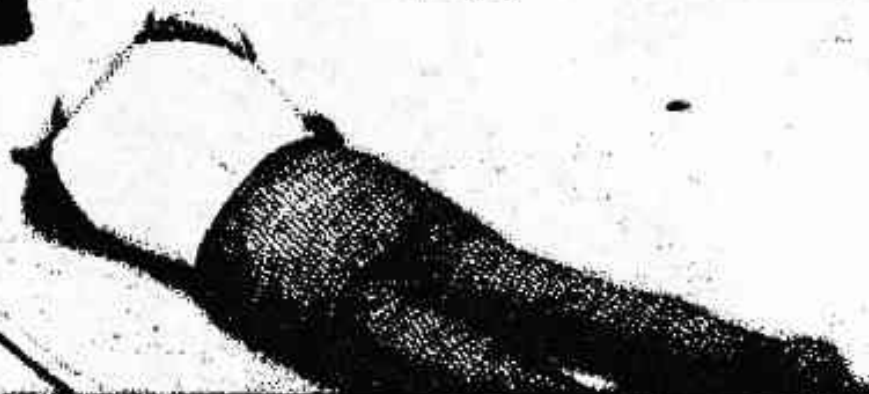
TIME TO LEAVE,
I THINK.

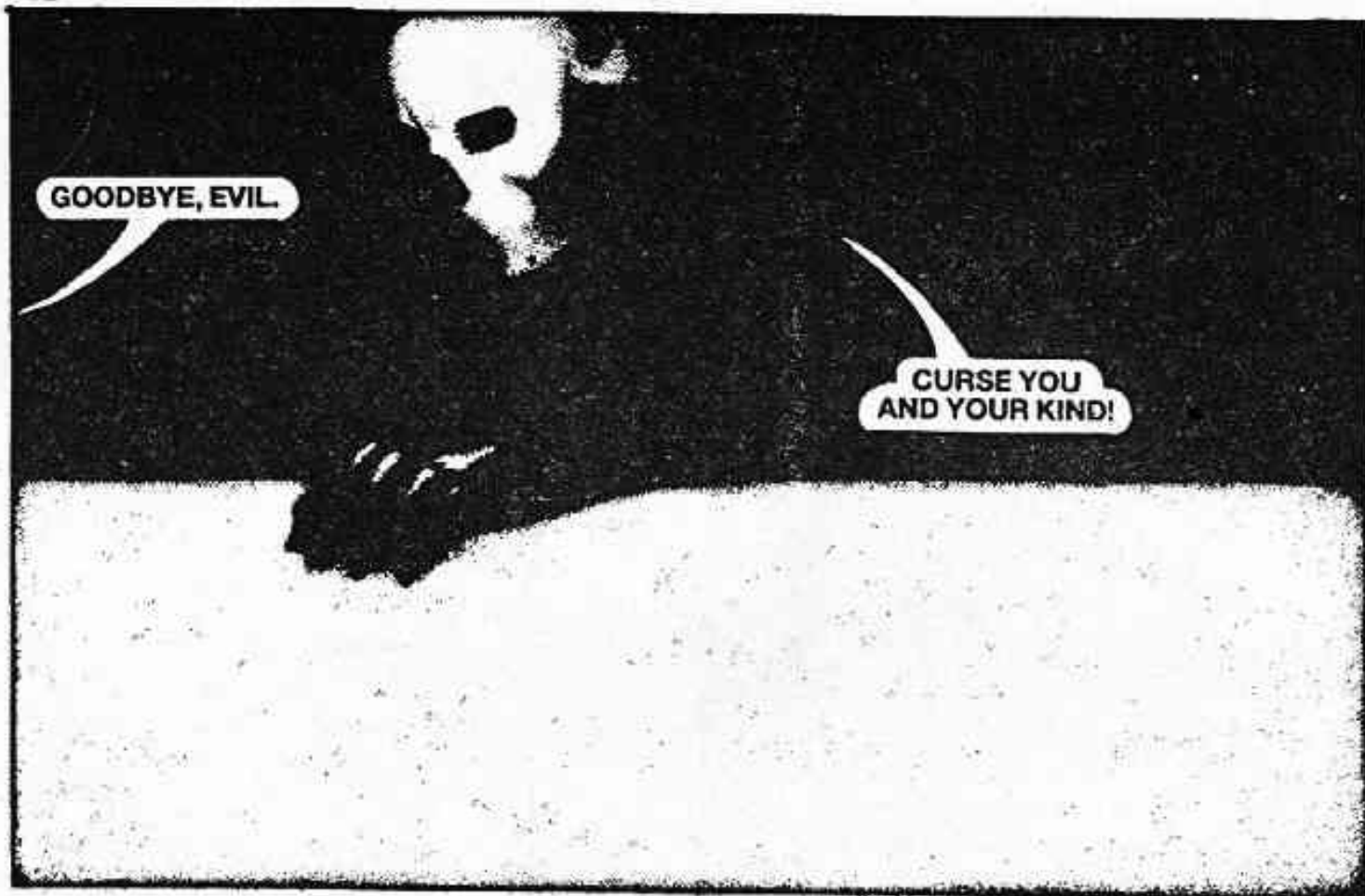
CURSE YOU ...



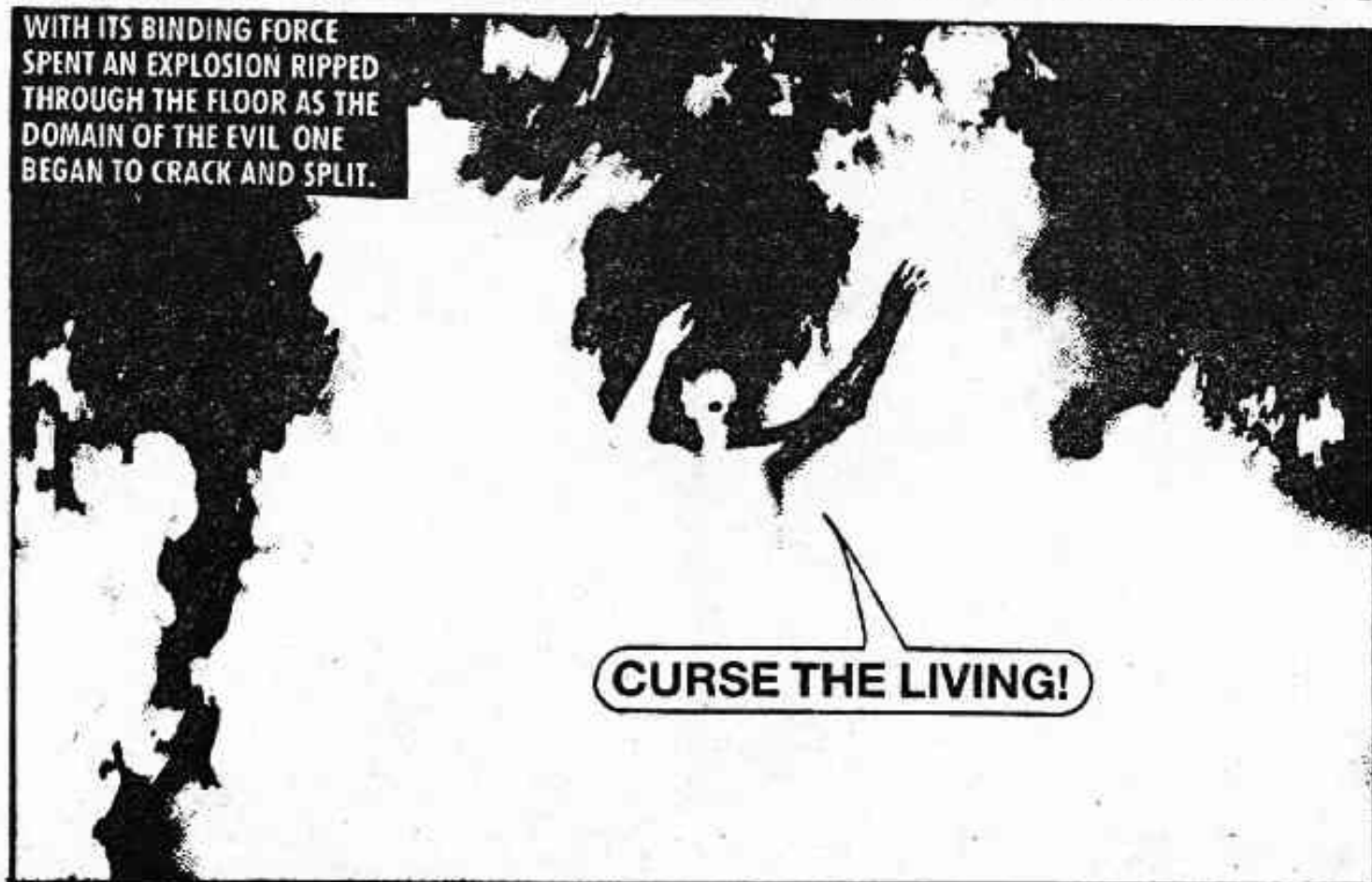
EVRIK PREPARED TO LEAVE THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH ...

COME, BEAST!
COME, HORSE!





WITH ITS BINDING FORCE
SPENT AN EXPLOSION RIPPED
THROUGH THE FLOOR AS THE
DOMAIN OF THE EVIL ONE
BEGAN TO CRACK AND SPLIT.



IT WAS THE EVIL ONE WHO HELD THE FORCES
OF THE DARK TOGETHER, AND WITH HIS DEATH
THEY BEGAN TO DISPERSE.

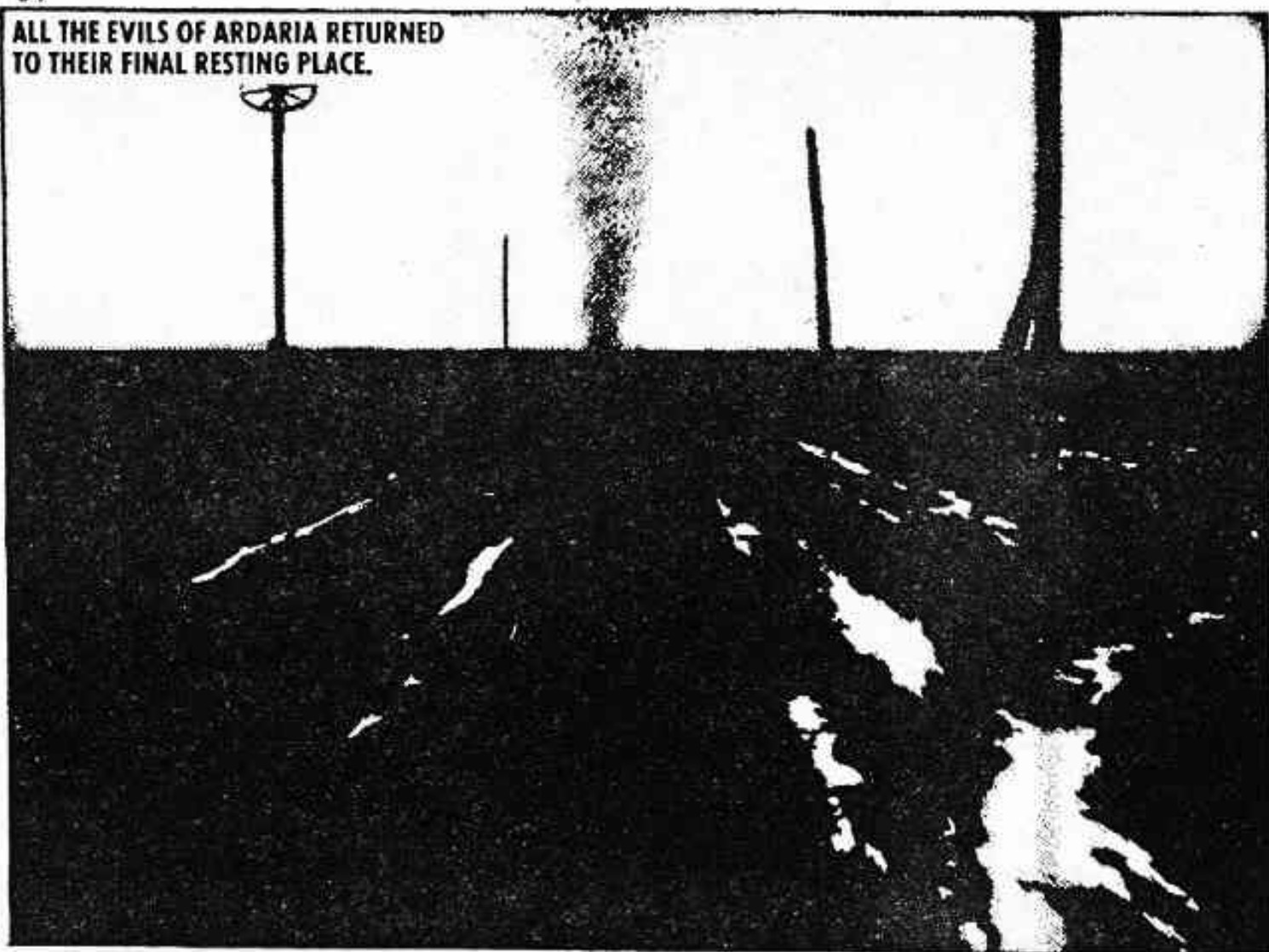


FLEE, MY FRIENDS!



THE TIME
OF RECKONING
HAS COME!

ALL THE EVILS OF ARDARIA RETURNED
TO THEIR FINAL RESTING PLACE.



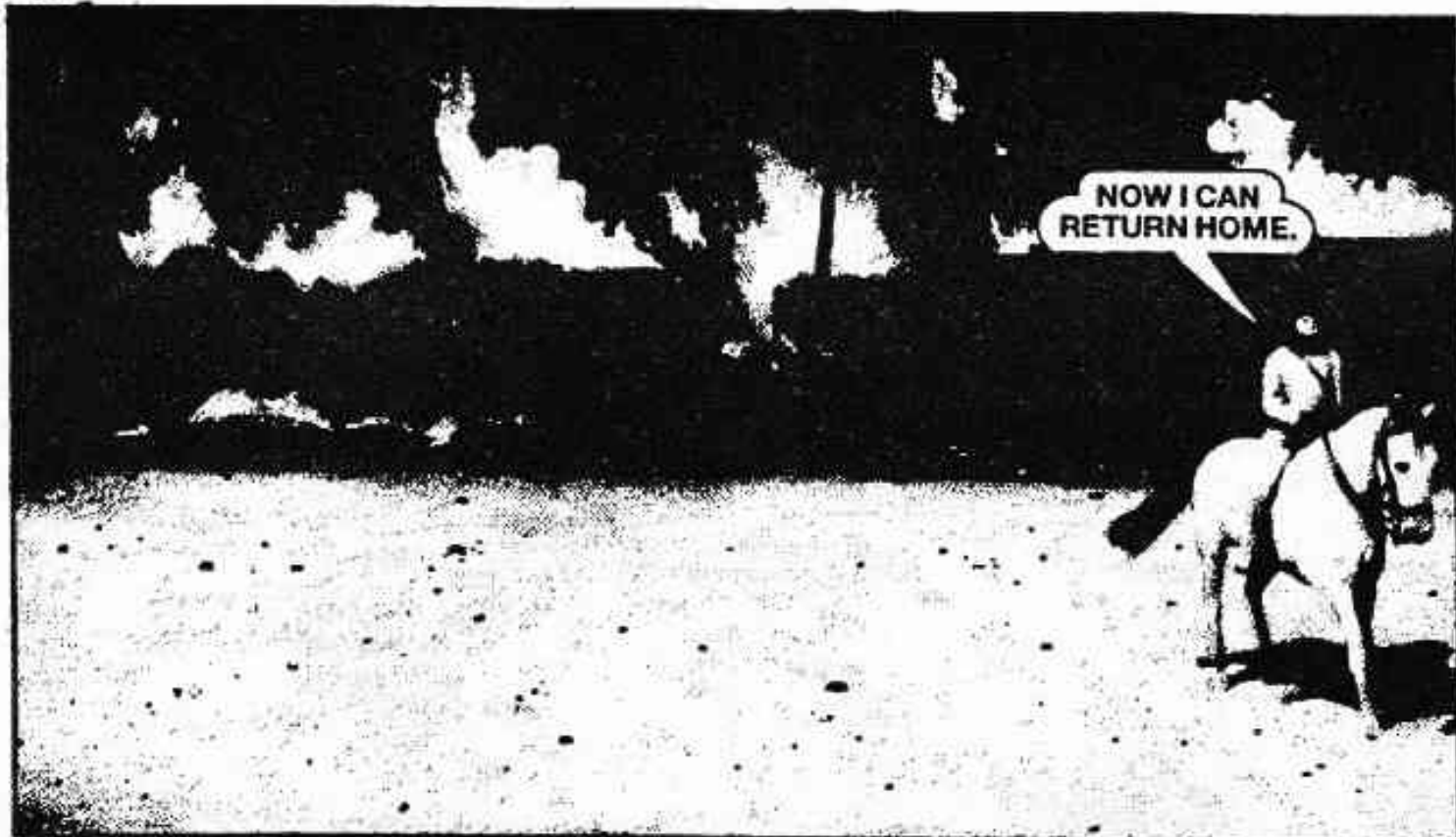
OBLIVIONI

WHOOF!

ARDARIA WAS FREE AT LAST.

SUNLIGHT ... THE
LORD BE PRAISED!

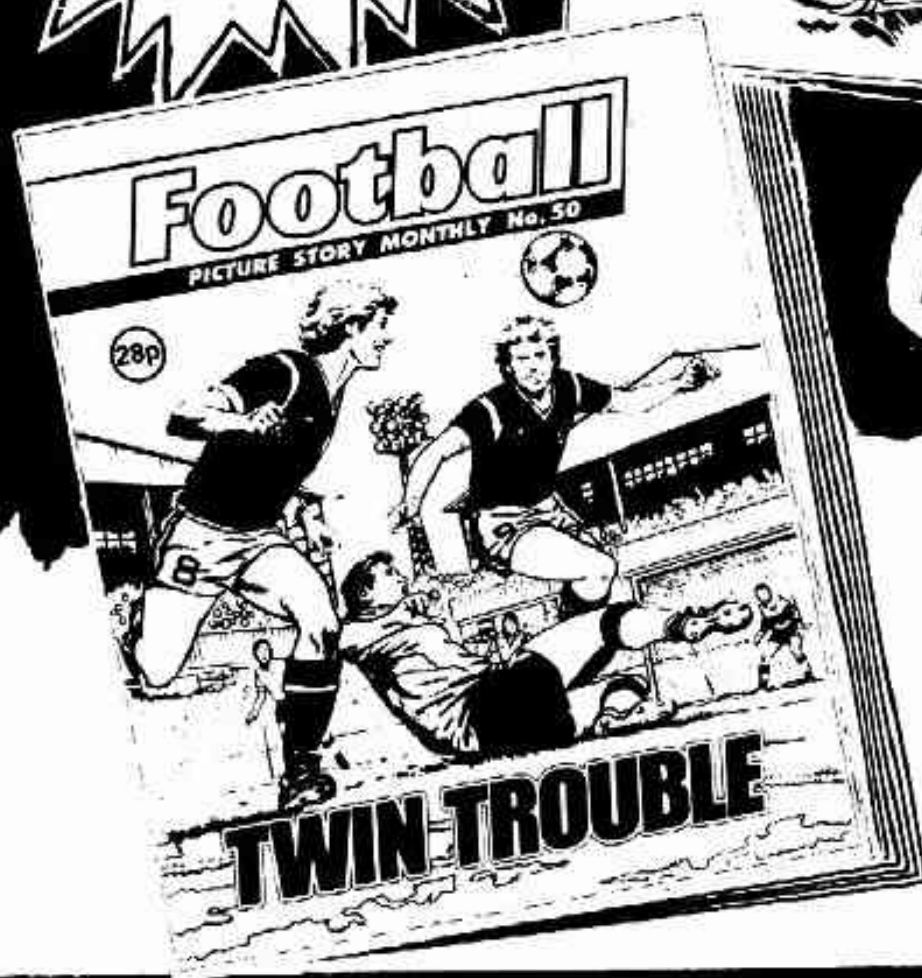
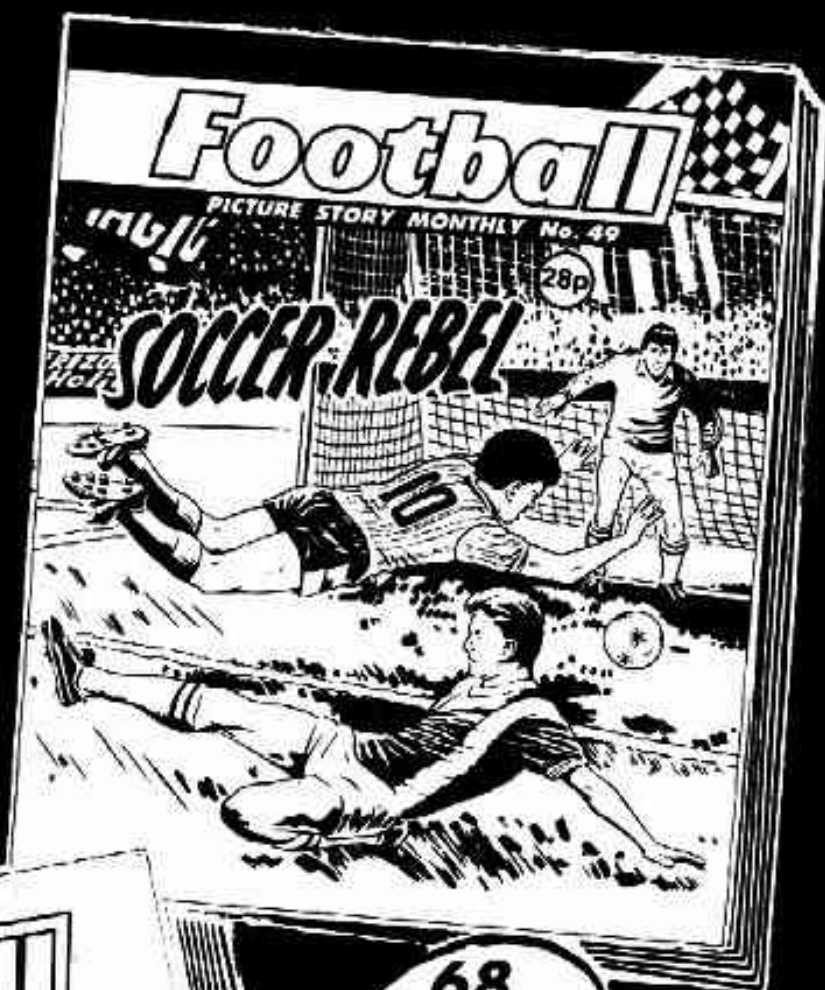
THE FINAL BATTLEGROUND! QUIET
NOW BUT FOR THE CRACKLING OF
FIRES. IT IS THANKS TO YOU HORSE
AND TIGER, WHO I NOW KNOW TO
BE REINCARNATIONS OF PREVIOUS
KNIGHTS. WELL, WE HAVE DONE.
GO, TIGER ... LIVE FREE, FRIEND.



AS THE THIRTEENTH MOON
ROSE, EVRIK ARRIVED HOME —



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It was a time of great conflict as the forces of evil advanced across Old Earth. Held at bay by a legion of Ardarian Knights, the powers of darkness gradually whittled down the opposition — until, at last, only one remained, and he was only a boy. A boy who had only one year to become a man. A man good enough to become an Ardarian Knight — the knight of the legend that said — “as long as one knight shall live, the powers of evil shall not thrive.”

